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Wired world

40 Hundreds of thousands of Canadians are joining the seductive and fast-growing world of computer networks. While some look for information—and romance—on local computer bulletin boards, scientists, scholars and business people are drawn to Internet, a vast globe-spanning superhighway crisscrossed with information and thousands of discussion forums.



The fight of a lifetime

20 Chief Kate Rich of the Dehcho First Nation once lived a nomadic life as the Labrador Harbours New, Rich, 35, is battling to save her community from the numbing effects of alcoholism, family violence and suicide.



Under the gun

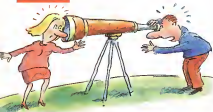
14 With Canadian peacekeepers under siege in Bosnia, military leaders at home are girding for a different battle. Next month, the Canadian government launches a far-reaching defence policy review that will likely result in further spending cuts to a military that critics say is already overworked and undermanned.



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LETTERS



'What unites us'

I was saddened to see the cover of *Maclean's* first issue for 1994 emblazoned with "How we differ" (Maclean's/CTV poll, Jan. 3). The recent success of regional political parties highlighted only too well how we differ. Maclean's was, however, a positive voice that at began the year by reminding Canadians of what unites us.

Patricia Goff,
Brimley, Ont.

Your articles on how Canadians view their selves confirms what I've been noticing. But English-Canadians believe they are more isolated than most people. As a person who has lived in four cultures, I have learned that the majority of people stick firmly to their own values and beliefs. There are no easy routes (awards and milestones) English-Canadians in there are narrow-minded and stubborn Quebecers.

Doreen Jermolow
Ottawa, Que.

Considering the increasing incidence of heart disease in women, I find the cartoon of a woman smoking on the cover of your Jan. 3 issue very inappropriate.

Dr. Susan McClell,
Calgary

Picking up pieces

If Alan Fotheringham never wrote another word, Dec. 23 piece "Canada heads to the Titanic lake," should guarantee his immortality as Canadian political commentary. With scathing bluntness he has expressed the magnitude of the loss of Canadian

political/economic independence that we suffered during the Mackenzie regime. We can only wonder if it was not left to like *Harvest* Dorey after the fall.

N. D. Bird,
Toronto

Critical comment

In his review of the CBC TV production *Dioppe* ("Reckless disregard," *Teleweek*, Dec. 26), historian J. L. Granatstein took some gratuitous shots at our documentary *The Melior and the Horror*. He suggested that we "fictionalized" history. He is mistaken. There was no fiction. Mr. Granatstein and our other critics in the Senate and elsewhere have been trying for the past two years to find script errors in our six-hour documentary series. They have failed. The documentary has been praised and defended by many veterans and historians including Brian Wilke, the *Dioppe* historian whom Mr. Granatstein praises in the same review. Shortly after our series was broadcast, Mr. Granatstein expressed to me his admiration for the two-hour segment dealing with the battle for Hong Kong. He went on to say that he would criticize other parts of the series and confessed that his motivation had to do with some critical comments my brother, Glen, had made about Canadian historians. I don't quarrel with Mr. Granatstein's right to keep attacking us, but I do wish he would be more honest about his motivation for doing so.

Torrence McKinnis,
Montreal

Honoring action

I want to thank you for featuring Theresa Stevenson in your 1993 Honor Roll (Dec. 27). Her story was an inspiration and a challenge. Instead of complaining about what's wrong with society, we should be doing something about it, as Theresa is.

Schleuse Nickel,
St. Thomas, Ont.

I am disgusted that you didn't have support from the Canadian Federation of Women-Seniors as a part of your *Maclean's* Honor Roll. I truly believe that people who help animals for a living are a blessing to all of us.

Scotter Devereux,
Toronto

Supply and demand

Your article "Farmers under fire" (*Business*, Dec. 20) cast the majority of Canada's farmers in a bad light. The GATT agreement does not, in your headline paragraph, "threaten Canada's agricultural policy." It does threaten Canada's marketing board system of supply management, which is limited largely to dairy and poultry farmers. Those of us who produce cereals, corn, olives, beef or pork (and we're in the majority) are not under the supply management umbrella and are in fact delighted to see some sanity return to the world's agricultural policies. We're consumers and taxpayers, not the lobby that must be found the supply management system as *distasteful* as do our urban counterparts. I wish you had used a little harder to explain the distinction.

Donald Chetwood,
Dundasville, Alta.

Safely salaried

What an appropriate background for Matthew Gervett's picture a sale ("The bank stops here," *Opening Values*, Dec. 20). No doubt that is where he keeps his salary of \$1.8 million that he gets for being the CEO of the Bank of Montreal. Such a salary is absolutely normal considering the wages the average Canadian earns. When one considers the great number of service charges banks levy on their customers and the heavy interest rates they pay on savings accounts it is easy to see how they make their ever-mounting profits. Oh well, I guess the bank's shareholders are happy — all the way to their banks.

N. A. Smith,
Halifax

Letters may be used for space and clarity. Please attach return address and daytime telephone. Write letters to the Editor, *Maclean's*, 1000 Lakeshore Blvd. E., Toronto, Ont. M5V 1A7. Tel: (416) 598-7722.

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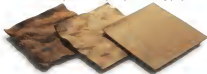


In order to disassemble less time quickly, the V8 engine's cylinder heads and block are made from unique aluminum alloys produced using an exclusive vacuum-casting system. Then, cast iron cylinder liners are added for extra longevity.



Manufactured in California, less than 1% of the thickness of this page, Lexus engineers have utilized strength from precision-belted propeller shaft technology to connect the transmission and differential. This reduces wear and stress on both components and the universal joint as well, adding years to the life of the drivetrain.

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STARS

OPENING NOTES



The Parthenon in Athens told her bones

Constitutional pedigree

While most Canadians just want the constitutional debate to go away, a Liberal senator is adding a whole new dimension to the discussion. Next week in Ottawa, at a meeting of Cdn Libre, a pro-institution political club, Senator Philippe Desrosiers plans to argue that the Canadian Constitution has actually been in use since 1949 BC. Gagnier, a former professor of Greek history, told Marleau that the underpinnings of the Constitution harken back to the 100 tribes of Athens, a group he compares to 100s from Canada's 10 provinces. And he says that, like the Canadian Senate, the Athenian Senate was made up of "old lawmakers and haggards." Even election strategies are similar. He noted, for example, that the benevolent tyrant Pericles was elected in Athens after presenting in a gilded chariot with a beautiful girl at his side. That, says Gagnier, reminds him of former prime minister Pierre Trudeau and Jean Chrétien, and their wives, Margaret and Mila. "This is a very old technique—a beautiful girl in a limousine," said Gagnier. History, it seems, repeats itself.

WORD FOR WORD

Kim exits laughing

Kim Campbell may have suffered a devastating political defeat, but her sense of humor appears to have survived intact. Over the holidays, the former Conservative prime minister dropped into Vancouver's Arts Club Theatre to make a cameo appearance with *Local Anesth*, a natural group featuring satirist Mark Lentin-Young and musician-actor Kevin Coughlin. Asked backstage about how she should be addressed, Campbell replied "Kim." Presided for a first-time tale, she responded, "I'm the Right Honourable until the day I die, then they'll fly the flag at half-mast. Whoop-de-do!" Her acting stint involved proclaiming the Top 10 reasons why she was glad to be out of politics. Her list:



Complexed: 3,000 miles from Stride Coughlin

1. I'm glad to be out of Ottawa—3,000 miles away from Stride Coughlin.
2. Have you ever been to Ottawa?
3. I won't have to make small talk with Preston Manning.
4. I won't have to explain all my gifts to the Parliamentary Press Gallery.

5. My Honda won't rust as fast as the West Coast.
6. I finally get a chance to practice my Russian.
7. I won't have to listen to Chrétien and Aud Lang Bye.
8. In Vancouver, we keep the snow on the mountains where it belongs.
9. Frank magazine doesn't have a B-C bureau.
10. Great excuse for not attending Jean Chrétien's Christmas party.

BEST-SELLERS

FICTION

1. *The Stone Diaries*, Carol Shields (1)
2. *The Golden Girls*, Margaret Atwood (2)
3. *My Sister Sam*, Ian McEwan (3)
4. *The Golden Girls*, Margaret Atwood (3)
5. *The Bridges of Madison County*, Anne Rice (4)
6. *Hotel Seattle*, Peter Mayle (5)
7. *Styptic*, Dennis Lehane (6)
8. *Blue White to Golden Road*, Robert Heller (7)
9. *Across the Bridge*, Mary Gellman (8)
10. *The Book of David*, Gordon Silver (9)

1-3: Fiction list only
Compiled by Steve Bortone

NONFICTION

1. *Memoirs*, Fern E. O'Sullivan (1)
2. *Stronger Men*, Gerald Cohen (2)
3. *The Drowning Secret Years*, Margaret Thomson (3)
4. *The Hidden Life of Dogs*, Gail K. Smith (4)
5. *Belongings*, Jerry Seinfeld (5)
6. *Fire with Fire*, Anne Wolf (6)
7. *Apocalypse Now*, Theodore Melfi (7)
8. *A Life in Progress*, Gerald Cohen (8)
9. *Blood and Belongings*, Michael Smith (9)
10. *A Short Book from Nevada*, Oak Bay (10)



Bridge of the Sea Shepherd II: no more roaming ships on the high seas

RUSTING WARRIOR

For years the Sea Shepherd II plied the seas in a relentless ecological crusade. Under the command of Canadian environmentalist Paul Watson, the 104-foot Scottish-built trawler fought against the bounty of seals, whales and other marine wildlife. Watson even went so far as to decorate its stubby deckhouse with the names of ships it had rescued. But according to

some British Columbians, the Sea Shepherd II is still in an environmental bind. Residents of Ucluelet, on Vancouver Island's west coast, fear that the ship, which is moored in nearby cove, may leak diesel fuel into the sea, endangering local fish, salmon and herring stocks. Watson, who says that the ship has been sold to a local fisher, disclaims any responsibility. Meanwhile, Canadian Coast Guard officials who have inspected the Sea Shepherd II say that the vessel, although dirty and rusty, is not leaking. Said Vancouver-based coast guard spokesman Rod Nelson, "There's not too much we can do about options."

Lands of opportunity

From President Ronald Reagan to mayors Clint Eastwood and Sonny Bono, celebrities in political office have become something of a tradition in the United States. But nobody seems that the day of star politics is shining away, to Central America. In November, Hollywood actor and swimmer Robert Redford, co-star of such movies as *The Morning After* and *Predator 2*, announced that he will run for the governorship of his native Montana. And when Shirley Jones goes before voters in the May, 1994, election, one of her rivals, incumbent president Guillermo O'Donnell, will have a catch in his corner: Boating superstar Roberto Duran, who grew up in the Panama City store of O'Donnell, says that he will run for the senate on O'Donnell's ticket. Meanwhile, in Nicaragua, a pair of celebrity presidential candidates may well descend on the strife-torn country when elections are held there in 1995. First to the gate was jet-setter, ex-Rolling Stone wife and native Nicaraguan Bianca Jagger. A harsh critic of President Violeta Chamorro, Jagger berated a year-and-a-half ago that the night could mean running for the office.

Now, rumors are circulating in Nicaragua that another native son may step up to the electoral plate in 1996, playing his ace: Dennis Martinez. The right-handed pitcher, who is leaving the New York Yankees to join the Cleveland Indians, says that for the moment he is concerned more with strikeouts than speeches. But he isn't ruling out the possibility, "I think every Nicaraguan/celebrity of being president one day," said Martinez. And while all of the Central American celebrities' political chances are hard to determine, Martinez may already have one advantage around the clubhouse: he is known as El Presidente.



Jagger: harsh critic



Montezuma El Presidente

PASSAGES

MARRIED: Billerica 380 Gates, 38, chairman of Microsoft Corp., and his longtime girlfriend, Michaela French, 35, on a cliff near the 17th hole of an exclusive golf course designed by Jack Nicklaus, on a privately owned Hawaiian island. Previously one of the world's most eligible bachelors, Gates has an estimated fortune of more than \$9 billion, making him the second richest person in the United States. The wealthiest investor Warren Buffett (more than \$10 billion), was among the 230 guests who attended the Gates' wedding at the California State University campus. A Harvard University dropout, Gates co-founded Microsoft in 1977 and became a billionaire when the computer software giant, maker of the Windows computer program, went public nine years later. He met French, a Microsoft business unit manager, shortly after she came to work for the Redmond, Wash.-based company in 1987.



DRUGS: Thomas (Tip) O'Neill, 61, the backslapping Democratic Party stalwart who made Jensen the phrase "All politics is local," of a local attack, in Boston. His 34-year political career ended in 1986, after a scandal in Boston spanned 13 presidencies and was capped by his term as Speaker of the House of Representatives from 1977 to 1986.

DRUGS: Virginia Kelley, 70, the mother of U.S. President Bill Clinton, of complications from breast cancer, at her home in West Springs, Ark. Her cancer was diagnosed in 1990, but five days after undergoing a medical mastectomy, she collapsed in her son's successful reelection bid as governor. Shortly after, she spent Christmas at the White House and traveled to Los Vegas over New Year's to attend two Barbara Streisand concerts.

DRUGS: Hatter Sunny Toft, 60, who is credited with coining the hockey phrase "hat trick," of respiratory failure, in a Toronto hospital. In the 1930s, Toft played five hockey seasons, scoring three goals during a Toronto Maple Leafs losing game.

DRUGS: Mackenzie-Hunter Cable TV LM president Barry Gage, 55, who led the drive to make his company an international force in the provision of cable television service, of brain tumor cancer, in Toronto.

DRUGS: Actor Cesar Romero, 66, whose career began in the 1930s and ended in the 1980s, in a Santa Monica, Calif., hospital.

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CANADA'S WEEKLY MAGAZINE

COLUMN



'I am a tourist in this Canada'

BY BARBARA AMIEL

A witty, pensive man accepted me on Toronto's Yonge Street. He had a camera slung on his shoulder with lenses of cameras inside. "Four bucks," he said. When I met my friends for coffee they laughed. "The guy never seems to leave his camera. On his shoulders, they told me, and you can find 200-espionage cartoons at \$50. The lad had quoted me as a tourist."

I am a tourist in this Canada. I left for Europe in 1989. Once Canadian politicians simply irritated me with their personal greed for power or the expense of irresponsible policies. Now, I couldn't live here for a minute. It'd be a nuisance or a criminal—as most Canadians have become out of sheer necessity to survive.

In the late 1970s, England had its socialist government for reasons had their best on the wastelands of this country and everyone had their share. Socialized babies like pumpkins and rickeys and bond your house for cash and drive everywhere at the same time. Real work was hopeless because income taxes were so positive. Last month I spent one week in Canada. Every afternoon I would avoid the "red" so as to avoid payment of the GST and provincial sales tax. Friends told of skyrocketed trips to their bank managers with bogus stories of why they needed loans to be withdrawn. People boasted of entering their holiday festivities with bootlegged liquor.

There was no magic. "You're redecorating your garden," I said to one friend. "Yes," she replied. "The tree man was great." "Cute!" I murmured, wanting to show I was an old-timer. "Oh, no," she replied. "He'll take a cheque. He lives in the city, but you make it over to an Indian reservation. They don't have to pay cash." Over at a girlfriend's, I watched her have her hair done at home. The hairdresser had quit his commission job at a salon the week before even though he had a terrific clientele. Two sales owners called him on his cellular telephone as he worked and offered

him regular employment. "We thought," he said. "Look, I get cash this way and so does I. What kind of incentive can you give me to equal that?" He had an idea plan—a little bit of independence for his old age—but what's the point? Now, Ontario's "Fair Tax" Commission wants to substitute that because he is a so-called high earner and not yet dependent on the state. "I might even go on unemployment insurance just because this system is so stupid," he said. My own husband was brooding about closing down his business. He pays off his taxes but higher rates plus employee benefits have made his business unworkable.

Meanwhile, the federal and provincial governments talk of cracking down on the "black market" and enslave supporters at Ontario's NDP talk of how Bob Rae has become a fiscal neoconservative. What a waste.

There's no such thing as a "black market." There is only the market. When government policies restrict that market, people start to resist in ways and fiddles. This is the story of every overregulated economy and in our time it is most often the story of socialist economies. The more you limit the market, the more people will cheat and evade, and

Ontario has a culture that is a mix of the Vienna of Orson Welles in The Third Man and Chicago in Prohibition days

the more their own governments will criminalize normal behavior. Putting punitive taxes on legal merchandise like cigarettes and liquor, and then trying to seal Canada off from the rest of the world where normal market prices hold, will turn citizens into social gloms. Ontario has a culture that is a mix of the Vienna of Orson Welles in *The Third Man* and Chicago in Prohibition days.

The federal and provincial governments that have set these mad fiscal policies believe that no matter how crazy and useless they are, adhering to such policies is the moral duty of all citizens. This is not. Stupidity should not be taken lying down, and the Canadians that notes with his feet by, for example, cross-border shopping or paying in cash and letting the government try and collect the GST is merely condemning an act of good citizenship. Canadians are not a new sort of human being whose normal instincts can be eliminated if you punish good qualities such as enterprise and hard work through punitive taxes. Then they will be discouraged. If you reward dependency on the state, dependency will increase.

The NDP has virtually bankrupted Ontario, one of the world's richest jurisdictions, through statist-socialist policies. New Bob Rae has forced his "social contract" on the public sector and reduced salaries by five per cent. This includes the salary for per cent is dwarfed in mind-boggling "neoconservative" But a real neoconservative would reverse Ontario's policies at barely tugging those who have earned money in order to give the proceeds to those who have not. A neoconservative would deregulate and end the excessive interference of the Ontario government in virtually every aspect of people's lives. A neoconservative would entirely reverse the amendments to the Ontario's Labour Relations Act, which put business management in the hands of the unions and demands foreign investment in Ontario.

What kind of incentives can you give such intervention to power affairs as the proposed Toronto law fining those who express to ride more than three minutes per hour and no recharging discrimination by offering 50 per cent of the \$200 fine to citizens who turn in violations? What kind of a plan is it where citizens who run impersonal mass alienation shops for money are shielded while citizens who smoke in a public place or watch a private golf are charged with crimes?

I spent a week this Christmas in Florida. At the end of our street, a broken wooden board walked up. There were probably 15 Hispanics in it, observers said. The people were overboard and now the boat sits with two old socks that survived the journey wedged under a beam. The Hispanics were seeking a better world. Canada is still a better bet than its military axis, of course, but people are gradually leaving. Canadians themselves are becoming a sort of lost people—seeking friendly environments. That is to solution. The only solution is to improve things here by cutting loose from statist and starting over again.

UNDER THE GUN

OTTAWA LAUNCHES A
REVIEW THAT COULD
LEAD TO DEEPER
DEFENCE CUTS

Two years ago, as chief of staff of the United Nations Protection Force in the former Yugoslavia, Brig. Gen. Lewis MacKenzie accompanied European Community envoy Lord Carrington on a hazardous journey from Sarajevo airport to the nearby town of Ljubanica. While the two men crunched in the back of a Canadian M113 armoured personnel carrier, MacKenzie had his first taste of war as he ordered his tank to give to a Serbian riding with them. The problem, recalls the now-retired MacKenzie, was that "he was going to have to keep himself exposed from the waist up in order to return my fire." The reason: the M113, a tracked vehicle designed in the 1950s, is badly exposed and carries only a 40-millimetre machinegun that can be fired—accurately, at that—only by a soldier whose head and torso are exposed to return fire.

Overworked, understaffed and outgunned in any of the most dangerous places in the world, these are the heavily armed 2,000 Canadian Armed Forces personnel serving with the United Nations peace-keeping mission in Bosnia. Recent incidents in which Canadians have been fired at, taken prisoner and sometimes brutally harassed by rebel forces have steadily heightened the dangers they face on a daily basis. Still it seems increasingly likely that Canada's military will soon face the future with less resources, not more. Starting next month, the federal government will launch what defence analysts say will be the most far-reaching review at Canadian defence policy since the country's entry into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 1949. That process is widely expected to lead to further deep cuts in the defence department's \$21.5-billion defence budget, which includes the \$1 billion that Canada spent last year on peacekeeping. Defence and military spending accounted for more per cent of last year's overall federal program expenditures of \$139 billion—an amount many liberals say the government can no longer afford. Partly because of that, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien is expected to tell other NATO leaders at a meeting in Brussels this week that Canada is rethinking as long



A Canadian peacekeeper
distributes clothes
to Serbian-controlled
territory; Thomas
Armitage: Politicians
who are not at risk
make these decisions
and then send kids
to these ugly places



term commitment to peacekeeping in Bosnia and elsewhere. Chrétien is responding, in part, to anger at home over an incident last month in which 31 Canadian peacekeepers were captured and tortured by Serbian Bosnian soldiers in Bosnia—an episode that critics say demonstrated the fail of UN efforts there. In a similar incident last week, four Canadian peacekeepers were detained and searched at gunpoint, but later released unharmed by Croatian soldiers before leaving for Europe. Chrétien expressed disappointment at the dangers facing the Canadians: "Canadians like to

fight back," he said. "They don't like to be pushed around." And in meetings with British Prime Minister John Major and French President Jacques Mitterrand before the NATO summit, Chrétien denied Canadian leaders that Canada is increasingly concerned about the delicate nature of the UN mission in former Yugoslavia and the sustainability of its troops there.

Canada's future role in Bosnia is only one of the crucial decisions affecting the country's military. Chrétien and the other NATO leaders will also discuss this week whether to let such former Warsaw Pact members as Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic into the organization—a move that Canada, along with the United States, regards as premature. At home, serious cuts to the defence budget could be left right across the country. Military analysts agree that the best way to cut spending without further weakening the Canadian Forces' efficiency would be to close anywhere from 10 to 16 of the country's 40 military bases—many of which have been kept open only because of political pressure in their region. All that will make place under a new government, a new defence minister, David Colville, and a new chief of defence staff, Gen. John de Chastelain. De Chastelain's resignation in December to the position he held from 1983 to January 1993, before going to Washington as Canada's ambassador to the United States broke precedent and startled almost everyone—including the military.

Not surprisingly, any effort to change—and reduce—the role and budget of the military is regarded with trepidation by those most likely to be affected. Defections have been a fact of life within the department of national defence (DND) for years: since 1989, the defence budget has been cut by \$2.24 billion, and military personnel have been reduced from about 52,000 to the current total of 75,000. Retired vice-admiral Chuck Thomas, who resigned as vice-chief of the defence staff in 1991 to pursue funding policy under the former Conservative government, warns that once Canada's Forces lose certain capabilities due to aging equipment not being replaced, the cost of recovering them during a future crisis would be astronomical. Says Thomas: "The problem is that the armed forces of tomorrow depend on the investment made today."

For the moment, senior military officers refuse all public comment on the new government's impending defence review, arguing that they do not yet know how it will be carried out. But leading critics of military policy contend that the \$2.2 billion a year that the defence department now spends on operations and maintenance can be significantly lowered without reducing Canada's military capabilities. Even the department's own research department acknowledges that there is still let to be squeezed—chiefly among the 34,000 civilians employed by the defence department. As well, Canada has far more officers than other comparable countries in the United States, out of every six

Canada Notes

DEATH ON THE HIGH SEAS

A four-day search coordinated by the Canadian Coast Guard failed to find any sign of survivors from a 23-year-old Liberian registered ship that sank last week in storm-tossed North Atlantic waters 1,800 km east of Newfoundland on New Year's Day. The *Martha T.*, whose crew of 35 Filipino sailors and six Greek officers were presumed dead, had been inspected by Dutch authorities and cleared for an ocean crossing on Dec. 1. It carried only six all-weather survival suits.

CASE DENIED

Justice Mahesh Moorgaonery of the Ontario Court's general division dismissed a class action suit by 25,000 Second World War veterans who claimed that a Cbc TV series, *The Indian and the Horse*, had defamed them. Moorgaonery ruled that groups of people can not sue for libel and that individuals cannot be defamed by criticism of a class or group.

TAKING HIS LEAVE

Matta Yaqou, an assistant mathematics professor who provided a storm of controversy by writing an article in a student newspaper in November that appeared to compare date rape, agreed to sue early retirement, settlement with the University of New Brunswick. The university initially suspended Yaqou, but later reinstated him after widespread criticism of its action.

A JUDGE'S APOLOGY

Judge Brian Coopers of the Quebec Court apologized for telling a woman that he would not lose any sleep if she was killed. The judge made the remarks in November after ruling that there was not enough evidence to charge the woman's husband with killing her. Days after his ruling, Coopers told the Quebec Judicial Council that he regretted causing his fellow judges "embarrassment and discomfort." The council is expected to decide whether to reprimand Coopers or to remove him from the bench.

ONERS TO STAY IN EDMONTON?

Frilled by 51% voters: Gary Bennett, Edmonton Oilers owner Peter Pocklington, who has often threatened to move his team elsewhere, reached a tentative agreement with the Edmonton Oilers, owner of the team's assets, to keep the club in the Alberta city. Details were not released. A previous tentative deal reached last May eventually fell through.

mostly multi-aged, and they are playing with a silent, blue-eyed concentration. "These are the serious ones," murmurs Denis Galt, a 36-year-old blacktop dealer at a nearby 5000-sq-ft multi-5500-metre site. Galt's table is the only one in the entire casino that is silent. The cards don't have "holes," or slots, as spread in a neat fan across the green baize. Everything

If the casino's current runaway popularity holds up over the longer term, the cash-strapped authorities in Quebec City may well have started building a money-spinner, a series of gambling halls at least a portion of the \$125 million Quebecers are believed to have spent last year on casinos outside the province. Initially, Loto-Quebec expected the casino to generate gross earnings of \$14 million in the first full year of operation, with a net profit of \$60 million for the agency itself. But those estimates were based on an average daily attendance of 6,000—not figures that are double or even triple the original targets. For the moment, Loto-Quebec will not release any updated figures based on the new statistics.

Even without the added revenues, however, both the province and the Montreal city government are in for some hefty benefits. The casino pays the city \$1.4 million a year in rent for the old French Pavilion at Expo and \$2.2 million in permits and material losses. It also expects to save another \$54 million in savings from the tourist industry. And the provincial authorities will collect taxes from the 1,480 permanent new jobs that have been created. Other positives are also being weighed by the potential profits from gambling. Ontario plans a casino in Windsor as a joint operation between the province and private investors, while Nova Scotia's Lottery Commission has been studying the issue as well. Alberta and British Columbia already allow more modest gaming houses, while the four-year-old provincially owned Crystal Casino in Winnipeg's Fort Garry Bluffs now has \$84 million a year in profits from its special health care projects.

In Montreal, much will depend on the timeliness of the casino's appeal. The people who run it clearly believe the current success is going to last. Having spent \$92 million to build, build and renovate the site, Loto-Quebec has asked for approval to carry out a \$70-million expansion—enlarge the casino area and adding another 1,000 parking spaces. The provincial government has yet to give an answer. But it already plans to open a smaller, though similar, casino in the Charlevoix region east of Quebec City next spring. And if the Montreal casino continues to be viewed by Montrealers as "one place to go," then the government may well be persuaded that it is a profitable worth taking.

HARRY CAMPBELL in Montreal

THE HIGH COST OF SILENCE



BACKSTAGE OTTAWA

BY ANTHONY WILSON-SMITH

Picture this: a democracy where the political leadership behaves as though elections truly mean more than words—and demand by political opponents is muted and moderate. In this more perfect world, your elected representative is usually heard, close by as he or she sits in an office, rather than off in a faraway capital where local concerns are too easily put out of sight and mind.

That description is almost entirely true of Canada since the Oct. 25 election

That is part of a quietening trend away from lengthy sessions of the House. In 1984, according to Robert Fleming, editor of the back Canadian Legislative, the Commons sat for 177 days. In 1985, it sat 110 days. And last year, only 76. Gone, too, are evening sessions, so even the sitting days are shorter.

Is that a good thing? Yes, would be the answer of most politicians on the government side. For ministers, the hours spent preparing for Question Period and Commons' controversies are a drain on time better used overseeing their department. For backbenchers, the sessions highlight their inactivity: unable or unwilling to publicly criticize their party, government MPs bring to mind Will Rogers' remark that "there is no more independence in politics than there is in jail."

And members of all parties are—or should be—aware that the public's lack of respect goes much to the satisfaction of the silent men of the House.

But political peace has its price. Despite the efforts of reform groups and others to denigrate or suppress it, Parliament remains the only forum in which duly elected representatives from across the country gather to discuss national issues. All other alternatives are at best, poor second choices.

In the chamber of Parliament, debate of important public policies is restricted or non-existent. It would have been nice, for example, to have heard advance discussion of what positions Canada should adopt this week when NATO leaders debate the country's future in Brussels. (Similarly, it is nice to know that the life-or-death matter of Canada's role in future peacekeeping ventures will be publicly debated when the House sits again.)

For MPs themselves, there are compelling reasons to avoid the opening of Parliament. Parliament is where officials and MPs get a chance to show nationally. Both in public and private, they can influence the policies of their parties and, by extension, the fate of debate in the country. And there is a self-serving question for MPs to ponder as they prepare for the first meeting of Parliament since last June 16: if they don't place much importance on public debate in the House of Commons, why should the rest of us?

The House of Commons, shorter sittings benefit the government, not the people.

There is no denying that Jean Charest's Liberals have been bold and busy trying up to budget and airport deals, enacting the replacement of the governor of the Bank of Canada, ratifying the North American Free Trade Agreement, signing the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and, this week, participating in crucial discussions in Europe on the future shape of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). They have done all this with scarcely a peep of dissent from the leaders of the four opposition parties. Only Progress Manitoba has been regularly available for public comment—usually from his Calgary law firm—members of Parliament, either then or later, have been in their home ridings, presumably busy seeking ways to service their constituents.

All this has been made possible by the Liberals' decision to wait until Jan. 17—at least three weeks after their election—before covering the House of Commons.

"It's part nervous hippie, part smart bar, part 50's kitsch. You'll love it."

"He's always late. Probably knee deep in some sand trap again."

"C'mon it's 78° outside. Quit channel surfing and let's go grab some dinner."

"You think that guy at Joe's Stone Crab was the tall, dark and handsome one my heroine was talking about?"

"I was gonna make believe I missed my flight. But then he said, 'Why don't you take a few days since you're down there already.' Believe that guy?"



12/10/90, 7:16 PM

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BY JOHN DeMONT

Even now, decades later, the memories return to her like the fragments of a long-ago dream: the crunch of snow beneath the dog sled, the eternal silence of the Foulke that stretched as far as the young Inuit could see. Katie Rich remembers the fragrances of the tree boughs laid on the tent floor, the welcoming heat radiating from the small portable stove where her family cooked their meals, the voices of her mother and the other women as they told the old tales of shagshag men in the snow and Inuvialuit legends as they told their dinner each evening. These are the best memories for Katie Rich, the hard, good life her family once lived on the Labrador Barents.

Then, there is the reality of Davis Inlet, her home for the past 26 years. Tonight, it is five children out on the snow-covered ice, climbing as they find longer and rocking with the smell of the gasoline fumes they had inhaled. The oldest is 15, the youngest five years old. But if any think their colorful stockings, boots and sweaters make them look even younger as a social worker and two Inuit men handle them into the makeshift clinic in Davis Inlet. They are collected and in good spirits by the new Rich, the serious-looking child of the eternally troubled community, arrives. She stays away, serving glasses of water and long-suffering husbands to the children. By now, she has seen the social ritual repeated countless times in her community, where the letters of a gooder talk are the refuge from the pain of life. But this time, on a later December night, left her riding. "What can we do to stop this?" she asked wearily. "It just breaks your heart to see this happening to our children."

Her voice was characteristically calm—but there was no mistaking the anger, frustration and grief behind the words. All her life she has lived with the appalling horror of her people, the Inuvialuit Inuit, who are the descendants of nomadic hunters. The Inuit now reside in poverty and neglect on a tiny island off Labrador's northeast coast where, they insist, they were tricked into settling. Davis Inlet, in fact, stands as the blackest possible demonstration of what happens when aboriginal and white cultures collide head on: by anyone's definition, the community of 300 is a town hell on earth where drug abuse, alcoholism, sexual abuse of children, suicide and domestic violence run unchecked.

In fact, it's degrading upon any single person, hangs in Rich's cloud. The burden is immense. In November, she resigned as chief under pressure from her family and out of frustration with intractable gov-

ernment. Roland Dickie, who does not support the leadership role she plays in the community, confronted a Labrador photographer taking her picture. Her plea, Dickie angrily told her as the couple walked an old acquaintance, was to leave with her four children aged 12 months to one year.

It was, at least says a typical day. Rich, 32, wants to both good news and bad with optimism and detachment. But when something strikes her as funny, her merry eyes dance and she laughs easily. "I don't have time to let emotion get in the way of what I'm trying to achieve here," she explained, putting on the latest of many Newfoundland capotes. And what she said her other Inuit leaders in Davis Inlet are trying to achieve is nothing short of a miracle.

She seems an unlikely savior, sitting in her hooded parka, sweatshirt and snowboots. She is a short, squarely built woman with shoulder-length dark hair parted in the middle. Although she didn't speak a word of English until she was 13, Rich is known throughout Canada mostly as her husband's thoughtful, articulate spokesman. But she also calls shots from behind the scenes, where she has emerged as a tough negotiator with the highest levels of government.

The paralyzing loss are sometimes confusing. The province holds a host of services in Davis Inlet, including schools, a health clinic and general store. At the same time, under a five-year, federal-provincial agreement signed in 1991, Ottawa pays 90 per cent of a \$19.5-million program that covers customary shorthills and water and sewer systems in Inlet, Davis Inlet and Sheshalehu, a settlement about 400 km to the south, where Labrador's remaining 600 Inuit live. Last February, the band led off a seven-point action plan for governments' role in their renewal. While some of their demands—such as self-government—were sweeping, others were specific. Last year alone, the federal government had promised by paying \$7.5 million plus, among other things, new housing and fire and alarm costs. But still, most of the Inuit's core demands have gone unheeded—including relocation to the isolated Labrador site of Soggy Bay, 11 km to the west, which promises better opportunities for housing and the water and sewage systems that Davis Inlet sorely lacks.

Newfoundland Premier Clyde Wells maintains that other possible sites have to be considered before a final decision is made. And last week, he announced a new Inuit council. But Rich, now an unpaid spokesman, about leading a move to Soggy Bay, which he estimated would cost about \$50 million—even though Rich maintains that he had given her a verbal promise to do just that once money is found. "If I could write a



Rich in Davis Inlet: 'I was a nasty person, a bad person, and I guess I've tried to make up for how I lived'

THE FIGHT OF A LIFETIME

CHIEF KATIE RICH IS BATTLING TO FREE THE DAVIS INLET INNU FROM A NUMBING CYCLE OF ADDICTION, VIOLENCE AND SUICIDE

ernments in Ottawa and St. John's, Nfld. Even she was surprised by the outpouring of support from across the country that followed. But the ultimate decision to stay on to lead the stricken community was rooted in something deeper than ego or obligation. "I was a nasty person, a bad person," she told *Maclean's*, "and I guess I've tried to make up for how I lived." She—lost. Davis Inlet—in searching for redemption.

By mid-morning that same day, the walls were already closing in on Rich. She had much to ponder as she sat in her sparsely furnished office (decorated with children's drawings and a hand-written "Chief" sign taped to the door). For one thing, there was the persistent rumor that Ottawa wanted to close her settlement in a location near Inukjuivik, an almost deserted Quebec town 300 km to the southwest, instead of to the site on the Labrador mainland that they seek. The previous night, another gang of teenagers was caught in the woods smoking pot and talking of suicide. To say it all, only minutes earlier her

cheque expired. I would do it tomorrow," Levin told *Maclean's*. "But I want to go in there and see the total response." Page 39

Now, instead of being merely delinquent, the Davis Inlet band is angry. And so are better politicians: this militant new mood that Rich, a woman who normally smokes a 200-odd cigarettes a day, she said, after all, who coordinated a local coordination last month between band members and RCMP officers and a judge who had handled dozens of criminal sentences that the Inuit viewed as excessive. Six months escaped in the conviction after Rich and other band members stood outside court and harassed Judge Robert Hyslop a letter ordering him out of the community. Later that day, six Inuit men, one of whom was charged after an RCMP law enforcement vehicle was spotted and 150 Inuit people surrounded a police vehicle in the community. In the afternoon, a mob of 100 Inuit in the community, the RCMP released at Rich's request to take the 12 men into custody.

It was also Rich who expressed anger and disappointment after

PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETER SIBBALD

MACLEAN'S/JANUARY 17, 1994 31

learning in late December that Wells refused to reopen negotiations with the Inuit and that Inuit had postponed a fast fading mission in the community until February in response to the arrest. "We are tired of having the decisions which affect our lives made in St. John's or Ottawa," she says. "We have to be free to make our own decisions, even if it means making mistakes."

Then again, it is hard to imagine anything being more of a mistake than Davis Inlet. The tiny strip of buildings looks as best in winter—a fortunate fact for a place where temperatures dip as low as -40° C and rarely top 20° C. Warm weather turns the soil to mud and deluges the piles of garbage and human waste outside the small, sparsely furnished houses where as many as a dozen people live without sewage systems or running water. (Hot water flows from the ground, there is an apocryphal tale of the settlement, where packs of wild dogs rove for food behind the single store and solitary snack bar, and snowmobiles, the only mode of winter transportation, roar across the landscape like giant, angry locusts.)

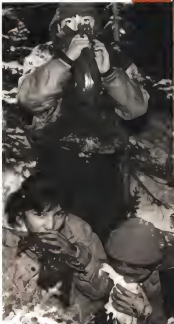
Davis Inlet burns onto the world's consciousness last February when six gasoline-sniffing children were pulled from an unheated shack on a frigid night, screaming that they wanted to die. The army of reporters who descended on the settlement told of a place where the sense of hopelessness is so profound that many young people see death as the only alternative. Now, most of the reporters have moved on to other stories but conditions are no better. "We still live like animals," explains George Beh, 31, a badly beat newspaperman of the Inuit Nation. "Nothing has changed."

If anything, the sense of despair is even deeper among the young, most of whom do not work or attend school. Consider the haunting tale of unscrupulous thefts and break-ins. Or the stoned and drunken teens who sometimes ruin the stereo-carrying sleds and themselves to kill themselves. Perhaps the most telling examples of the overwhelming nature of the problem are the 17 local teenagers who traveled last February at Ottawa's expense to Poodlokan's Lodge, a rehabilitation clinic near Edmonton that is run by nurses for addicts to break their addiction to gasoline fumes. "Most of them are still sniffing gas," reports Bob Piwas, 30, a member of the settlement's four-person Inuit police force. But, he says, a release is not surprising in a community where 40 young people have been identified as chronic gasoline users. On one year's weekend, some of the same children, high on gasoline fumes, use an RCMP cabin and a school where they caused minor damage before police arrived.

In truth, hardly a day goes by when the badly overcrowded force does not catch someone sniffing gasoline or some other brain-softening solvent from piles of garbage bags in the woods around the settlement, or on the surrounding tundra. It is a practice growing in popularity among young Inuit for an indigenous practice. On one particularly grim recent, a group of teens barricaded themselves in a "safe house" set up for counselling substance abusers and began inhaling a mixture of gasoline and cleaning compounds before staff members broke into the room.

It gets worse. For most people, alcohol—whether homemade or liquor and beer brought in by air from the mainland—is still the largest problem. Many of the town's citizens are listed as alcohol use, including more than 50 deaths since 1975. But the most worrying sign of the bleakness of life in Davis Inlet is the shocking number of those who try to kill themselves since February, 1991, there have been 180 suicide attempts in a settlement of only 500 people, although just two were successful.

Who can really blame the young, in particular from being depressed? Many were sexually abused or born by heavily medicated, while others grew up being neglected by alcoholic parents. At best, the youths feel that all they can look forward to is the same awful existence as their



parents. "I don't see much to be hopeful about," declared Gabriel Beh, an 18-year-old who has contemplated suicide. "Why bother us trying any more? Alcohol will always get in the way."

Kate Rich can sympathize with that sense of hopelessness. She was born in North West River, a settlement 200 km south of Ulu. It was the site of a British Columbia mission and general store where her Inuit band lived in town during the summer months. But during the seven months of winter they roamed the Barrenes near the Snags River. Like their ancestors for the past 6,000 years, Rich's

A community wracked with pain and poverty

Clockwise from far left: children sniffing gasoline; Mary Georgette Mistenapeo at home with her grandchildren; tribal officer Bob Piwas (right) helps a father put his son on a snowmobile after he was found sniffing glue in a safe house

less," he says. "It makes a difference knowing we are as good as anyone." For Simon Takahapsh, the discovery also came as a revelation. He started writing poems at 11 and lived in the huts at 19—the same year that both of his parents committed suicide while under the influence of alcohol. But three years ago, he went on the wagon after almost stopping on his mind daughter during a drunken domestic episode. Now 26, Takahapsh says he attends Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and bonds to the former-warrior Davis later called police hero. "It is us in the people," he explains. "The legacy of alcohol and substance abuse we are living in a cycle which is very hard to break, but once it is broken, we will see a bit of change."

Back in the wooden lanes based building, Rich confers with co-workers. After becoming a cigarette, she walks slowly back into her office. She is, she confesses, first fired of watching children kill themselves, tired of arguing tirelessly with governments, tired of the night shifts with her partner, tired of work days that never seem to end, tired of spending 15 days a month on the road away from her children. "I never thought I would be in a position where I would be responsible for a whole community," she says. "I never thought I would be a leader."



The village of Davis Inlet, winter weather turns the ice to mud and destroys the piles of garbage and human waste outside the small houses.

Many nights, it is simply too much. Then, before going to bed, she weeps in despair over her inability to make more headway against the overwhelming problems facing her people. Her family wants her to quit; she herself has not made up her mind whether to run for a second term as chief.

But, seated at her desk, her spirits seem to rise as she considers people like Gregory Rich and Simon Takahapsh—and what she thinks of the increasing number of young and adult Inuit who are going back into the Quesnel. Her words are a plea to lead and live like their parents before them. "We can never go back to leave what our parents were," she explains. "But unless we begin to recover our Inuit culture, we will never know who we are." She, after all, can still remember what life was like on the Barren, where her people lived in harmony with the Inuit land that had always sustained them, and that is now perhaps, their last, best hope for renewal. Do these days seem like a long time ago? "No, certainly," she says, her voice dropping almost to a whisper. □



'We have hundreds of Davis Inlets'

Davis Inlet has become a symbol of all that is wrong with the way Canada's natives are governed. But Inuit Affairs and Northern Development Minister Ron Irwin says that Davis Inlet cannot be represented by symbols. His department, with a budget of \$6.7 billion, is responsible for 604 reserves across the country—plus scores of trust communities dotted outside the North. While Irwin acknowledges that the problems of Davis Inlet are real and pressing, it is not the only troubled place in the domain. "We have hundreds of Davis Inlets in Canada," he told Maclean's last week. To solve the big problem of Davis Inlet would take money—about \$80 million to move the community from a small island off the Labrador coast to a less isolated spot on the mainland. Irwin says he has no objections in principle to the demand by the Davis Inlet tribe to move to the mainland—but there simply is no money available. "We made it clear that there's no \$80 million set aside to make the move," he insists. "If I could write a cheque tomorrow, I would do it, but I don't have that power."

Irwin, 57, was a surprise choice for the Inuit affairs portfolio, although few were surprised that someone who once said he would consider donating his right arm to help Jean Chretien defeat John Turner in the 1984 federal leadership contest would get a seat at the new Prime Minister's cabinet table. Governmental wisdom gave the job to Elinor Boyd-Andrew, a Davis Inlet from Fort Norman, N.W.T., who settled for lesser official work as junior minister for housing and youth. But Irwin, a former mayor of South Sea, Mass., Calif., says he did not come to the task blind. As a lawyer in the South, he worked as general counsel to two local Indian bands, and to the Ontario Métis Council. "I came into the ministry as sort of a stranger," he says. But, Davis Inlet's national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, conferred after Irwin's appointment that the new minister is an unknown. "To put someone there who doesn't understand our issues means we have to train him," said Mercredi.

Irwin is a busy, plain-spoken man who served one term as an MP from 1980 to 1984, working with Chretien as a parliamentary secretary during constitutional negotiations. Elected in 1984, he returned to politics last year with a victory in his South riding. He would have preferred to learn his new responsibilities away from the glare of publicity. "I've tried to low-profile these things," he says. "I just want to get to down quietly and try and solve these problems."

Things did not turn out that way just as Irwin was about to make an Inuit visit to Davis Inlet on Oct. 20 to learn its problems firsthand. Irwin, an ordained Inuit officer and a judge out of the settlement, Irwin postponed his visit to February, arguing that to go would give little blessing to the small rivet. "It sends the wrong message that confrontation works if I had gone in there," he says. Irwin then found himself in a spot with Davis Inlet Chief Kate Rich, who last week accused the minister of reneging on a pledge he made to her in a telephone call to approve the move—a statement Irwin denies. Irwin says the dispute has not changed his opinion that Rich is doing able work under trying circumstances. "I am very sympathetic to her," he says. "I have a lot of respect for what she's doing." But, Irwin adds, Rich must understand the financial pressures that the government faces.

Irwin says that while there may be no money to fix the big problem at Davis Inlet, there is no excuse to leave smaller problems unresolved. He wants to look at how the police system works, at education, health, child-rearing and other issues. It is an approach that the steps prevents him from being overwhelmed by the problems confronting native people. "Just because it's difficult, we can't just ignore it," he says. "We can no longer be the nice cultural ministry. We have to go out there and solve the problems that First Nations have." Irwin's upcoming visit to Davis Inlet will put that policy to an early and critical test.

NARRAN GARAGATA in Ottawa

TECHNOLOGY FRONT

900 MHz breakthrough!

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By Charles Acton

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MEXICO'S REVOLT

AN INDIAN UPRISING RATTLES THE GOVERNMENT

The raging guerrilla army of Mexican Indian peasants, using bandoliers, assault rifles and antique guns, proved as much for the military. Within five days of declaring war on the federal government and occupying six cities and towns in southern Chiapas state, members of the Zapatista National Liberation Army last week won for the hills, buty pursued by well-armed troops, tanks, jets and helicopter gunships that the Zapatistas appeared to have accomplished at least one major objective. The uprising, which began on New Year's Day and killed at least 100 rebels, soldiers and civilians, drew worldwide attention to the impoverished Indians at a time when wealthy Mexicans were celebrating the start of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with Canada and the United States. The three-way accord, declared one rebel leader, is a "death sentence" for Mexico's indigenous people.

Although the peasant revolt appeared short-lived, a clearly rattled government of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari Salinas's ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) has staked its reputation on NAFTA, claiming that free trade offers Mexico its best hope of escaping Third World poverty. Despite that, many experts contend that increased competition will destroy many jobs in Mexico that it creates, at least in the short term. The resulting discontent will likely fall hardest on poorly educated Mexicans, exacerbating the country's already stark economic disparities. Critics of NAFTA say that many Indian

peasants have already been driven off their ancestral lands by government policies designed to promote high tech, export-oriented agriculture at the expense of small-scale farmers.

If those trends continue, they will magnify the ruling party's efforts to hold on to power in a national election scheduled for next August. The main opposition group, the left-leaning Party of the Democratic Revolution, is campaigning for increased democratization and social justice. Its leader, Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, who is of mixed Indian and also European descent, has said that, if elected president, he might negotiate—or even scrap—NAFTA if it proves harmful to Mexicans.

The revolt in Mexico's poorest state led on years of economic hardship and the growing belief that the benefits of free trade will not trickle down to the most disadvantaged—most of them Maya Indians. Frederick Turner, a political scientist at the University of Connecticut who specializes in Latin America, said that the uprising was "born partly of a feeling that prosperity is benefiting certain sectors and northern Mexico, while the poor and Indian south is being left behind." David Rhee, director of the Mexico Project at the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies, added that land is the "crucial defense factor." "Landless people and rancheros are encroaching on traditional Indian lands," said Rhee. "Chiapas is fertile territory for peasant unrest."

Rebel leaders requested the implementation of NAFTA on Jan. 1 as another attack for the Maya, remnants of a once-sophisticated civ-

Soldiers and peasants in the town of El Comandante poverty

ilization that flourished throughout Mexico and Central America before the Spanish conquest in the early 16th century. Since then, persecution and cultural isolation have reduced the Maya's 5 million of whom live in Chiapas—to impoverished outsiders in their own land. The literacy rate among the state's Indians is about 30 per cent, compared with 88 per cent for Mexico as a whole. The Maya infant mortality rate is 10 times higher than the national average. Many Indians scratch out a living as tenant farmers under powerful landowners allied to the army and the ruling PRI. A 1989 Amnesty International report documented dozens of human rights violations against the Maya in Chiapas by Mexican authorities, including torture and unlawful detentions.

Last week, Mexican officials suggested that the Zapatista National Liberation Army may have links to Guatemalan leftist rebels and other Central American groups looking to destabilize the Mexican state. Some independent observers took a similar view, saying that the Zapatistas seemed too well-organized for a local peasant group. Said Rhee of the Center for Strategic Studies: "It takes an extremely impossible line to explain the Chiapas revolt without looking for some element of outside organization." But the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unit, an umbrella organization encompassing several leftist groups, strongly denied any ties to the Zapatistas. The Zapatistas themselves and that they were fighting for indigenous rights and that they had no ties to outside groups. They owe their name to Emiliano Zap-

ata, a leader of the 1920-1930 Mexican revolution who defended the rights of peasants to seize land from the wealthy.

The Chiapas uprising resonated beyond Mexico's borders to other groups of Latin Americans, where indigenous groups are also struggling with white settlers for land and resources. In Bolivia, an Indian peasant leader blamed three-million "servitors" for the Chiapas revolt and warned that the unrest could spread. "The brutalized, starving Indians and the enormous poor may rise up not only in Bolivia but throughout Latin America as long as hunger and misery spread under the current neo-liberal system," said Humberto Quintanilla, Bolivia's top peasant union leader.

As week's end, Mexican troops continued to trade fire with former rebels in the mountainous valleys between Chiapas and Guatemala. And Zapatistas claimed responsibility for toppling two electrical towers south of Mexico City. But the uprising appeared to have lost momentum. In San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas' second-largest city, Roman Catholic Bishop Samuel Ruiz met the head of the National Human Rights Commission, Jorge Mendez, to discuss alleged atrocities by rebels and soldiers. Ruiz, a leading proponent of liberation theology, complained earlier that military planes had bombed civilians on the outskirts of the city. And Catholic church workers estimated that as many as 400 people had been killed in the fighting, far fewer the official count.

Experts said that the bloodshed could have been avoided if the government had improved appalling living standards in Chiapas. To that end, Salinas last week hastily ordered 20 tons of food to be flown into the region and announced to stop an construction program. But few observers, least of all the downy-sided Indians, seemed convinced that such hand-Aid solutions would bring peace and prosperity to Mexico's most desperate corner.

ANDREW BLISS/and correspondent's report

Stolen guerrillas in the town of Ocozacoaco as many as 400 people may have died



World Notes

THE DOWN UNDER

Thousands of people find their houses in suburban Sydney in swirling winds spread more than 150 fire storms across New South Wales, Australia's most populous state. More than 7,000 firefighters battled the brushfires—some locked out by wind-whipped flames, burned almost 900,000 acres of forest and smashed once shortly after Christmas.

INVESTIGATING CLINTON

U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno rejected a request by two congressional Republicans that she appoint a special prosecutor to investigate Illinois' murky business ventures linked to President Bill Clinton. Instead, Reno said that an ongoing justice department investigation would be "fair, thorough and impartial." Senator Bob Dole had said that he was deeply troubled that Clinton's personal attorney reportedly "negotiated" over the scope of a justice department subpoena for all the president's personal papers relating to a failed real estate deal in Arkansas.

FAIL OF A REBEL

Gorazm officials launched an investigation into the reported death of ousted president Ziaul Karim Khan. After his wife insisted that he committed suicide on Dec. 31, Gama Khan was the former Soviet republic's first democratically elected leader, but he was overthrown a year ago by opponents who accused him of assuming dictatorial powers. He returned from exile last fall to lead an unsuccessful rebellion against his successor, Edward Shvardnadze.

A RADIATION SCANDAL

A White House spokesman said that the Clinton administration will approve with "all deliberate speed" 10 statements for the extent of Cold War-era U.S. nuclear experiments on a wide range of unsuspecting subjects, including recently retired lawmakers and presidential aides. The administration will also consider compensating survivors of the experiments. If its investigation shows that they were misinformed.

IN FROM THE COLD

A former member of the radical Weather Underground student group was sentenced to 18 months' probation for his role in a 1969 explosion in Chicago after 24 years in hiding. Jeffrey Powell, 43, pleaded guilty to a charge of mob action stemming from a 1969 student riot, and was sentenced to 18 months' probation.

Arafat under attack

Palestinians assail the PLO chief's autocratic style

His is one of the world's most famous, and infamous, revolutionaries—a romantic figure to some, a bloodthirsty terrorist to others. Either way, Yasser Arafat has been one of the Middle East's most controversial survivors. Since becoming chairman of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) in 1969, the softly spoken, smiling Arafat has endured a succession of military and diplomatic

which he has handled the peace negotia-
tions—left disappointed. “We can’t claim that
we achieved anything,” said the group’s
leader, Haidar Abdel-Shafi, who chaired the
Palestinians negotiating team during the 1991
Madrid peace talks. “There are no constant
events and no guarantees that things might
change. Chairman Arafat is keeping the discus-
sion outside in his own hands.”

According to Abdel-Shafi, the delegation wanted Assad's arrest and intended to delay

way the Palestinians run their own affairs. And although she chose not to sign the final declaration, she has made it clear that she sympathizes with their position. "They should be respected as a constructive," Adnan said. "But, you run the risk of having people who feel disgruntled, disenfranchised, excluded."

For his part, Sumner Beaglehole, a West Bank economist, said that Anadol would be well-placed not to govern the West Bank and Gaza like a de facto "Islamic republic" of very important issue for our people here. If Anadol is going to rely only on his police force, we will turn into another Algeria or Egypt, with daily killings and confrontations." Other Palestinians have accused Anadol of preferring symbols and continuities to the reality of the occupation building "tunnels all participating the real work required to build the Palestinian economy," complained an adviser to the PLO negotiating team in the Oslo negotiations. "The direction of the work is to give his part of the Palestinians control over."

On the other side of the debate, Anah's supporters accuse his critics of waging a power struggle. "These are people who are worried about their place," Matarone says, "in that Jewish-American newspaper circle, said Matarone." "What is going on is a lot of jockeying for power in the absence of any authority on the ground," he added. Still, the debate would be resolved later this year at the ballot box. "The people who say Anah doesn't want elections," he said, "are the same people who are trying to marginalize their positions."



Arrest and with Saab: a stormy meeting at the PLO's Tunis headquarters

NICARAGUA

Just like old times

The civil war may be only a memory, but Nicaraguans are still suffering

For Mariano Zúñiga, the killings occurred up hill and down dale in the memories of eight years of civil war. Two bodies—one a Sandinista soldier, the other a peasant—were recently found in a shallow grave in a remote, poverty-stricken village 120 km north of Managua. Both of them were riddled with bullets and had their eyes gouged out. "We're not just great preservatives here," says Zúñiga, who is mayor of La Dalia. "Everyone is afraid." It is just like old days in Nicaragua. The military is involved in almost daily clashes with 1,500 "rebel" troops who are active in the hills and look for food riches. The economy is flat and poverty is acute: only some 5% of the entire Western Hemisphere has a higher poverty rate. But the conservative government has been able to keep the country from falling into the political paralysis that has bedeviled the country in a state since Somoza's fall, says Antonio Chaves, who owns a small farm and a business agency. "The politicians are too busy

In fact, the situation in Nicaragua desperate that many residents say for the good old days under ruler Anastasio Somoza, who was ousted by the Sandinistas in the 1979 election. In a recent poll, 56 per cent of respondents said that the country was "better" under Somoza. Just seven per cent felt it better under Chagnoria. "It's such repression [under Somoza], the economy was very soft," said Uclat, in a country that was once the international attention from US—p to Communist encroaches in are wonder just what 22 years of trouble and war have accomplished.

**Increasing rebels on the march:
a symbol of the fight for justice**

impact has been devastating," said Alejandro Portuondo Cornet, an economist and former Sandinista official. "It's like dropping a bomb without even looking where the bomb is going."

For the most part, Chirotore has been too busy battling her political foes to tackle the economic troubles. The conservative coalition she rode to power, known as the National Opposition Union, has abandoned her for maintaining an association with students following the election. She kept several of them in key posts in the Statehood office, she has turned away from giving in to U.S. pressure to end the Communist Party in Guam. Humberto Ortiaga, the head of the state-controlled army, and her program is living made on a new coalition. The griffrock strongman party is tremendously polarized, and in Chamorro, head of the Organ American States in Nicaragua. "But under the economic problems would be the political problems,"

support. But their struggle is not only a symbol for Nicaraguans; it is also a message to the world. "We're tired of the bloodshed and a civil war," says Chavez, the businessman. "But the revolution is for us in our fight for justice." Nicaragua's recent troubled history, it seems, is not yet behind.

DAVID SCARLEAM on La Follie

BURYING THE HATCHET

Bernie Van Marck is glad that he decided not to have his day in court, and he advises any other business owner facing potential lawsuits to do the same thing. Van Marck, 41, is a Vancouver-based home builder and, like most builders, he occasionally has disputes over contracts with his suppliers. Last May, a shipment of wooden roof trusses arrived several months late, at one of his projects, a delay that cost Van Marck \$12,500. The builder said that the delay was the supplier's fault and he considered suing to recover the money. But a likely would have taken about a year and a half to obtain a court date, and he and the supplier probably would have had to pay about \$20,000 each to lawyers for a three-day trial—and there would be several parties for a judge's decision. Instead, Van Marck and his supplier took their dispute to an arbitrator, a member of the Associated Construction Association of British Columbia. They prepared their own witness statements of the case. On Aug. 28, a panel of three fellow contractors and suppliers listened to the two sides' witnesses in an informal three-hour hearing. Two weeks later, the panel ruled in favor of Van Marck. The advantages of settling the dispute in that format were obvious—for both sides. Declared Van Marck: "That system will serve you every time, regardless of whether you win or lose."

Thousands of other Canadian businessmen and women are also frustrated by the years of delays and sky-high lawyers' bills involved in taking even small commercial lawsuits to court. And like Van Marck, more and more of them are opting for successful alternate dispute resolution (ADR) methods to resolve conflicts. There are several new buzzwords that describe these methods, including "confidential listening" and "reconciling," but all of them involve turning the case over to private arbitrators who experience little bias between the two parties, or to arbitrators who have the power to order legally binding settlements. Although there are no definite estimates, there are now at least 1,000 full- and part-time mediators and arbitrators in Canada. The bulk of them are lawyers, but many are just experts in a particular industry or field. And in an attempt to relieve pressure on the already crowded court system, Ontario and the provinces—and even the Canadian Bar Association—are trying to expand the application of ADR to resolve various commercial disputes in the hope that more informal proceedings will help to lower legal costs and produce quicker settlements.

From: attempting to resolve disputes with mediation



But even though several recent studies show that this is indeed the case, corporate executives and their lawyers still appear to have deep reservations about bypassing the courts—and sometimes mediation does not work. Last month, in one of the largest cases to date to go to ADR, executives from Air Canada and PWA Corp., the parent company of Canadian Airlines International Ltd., broke off talks aimed at resolving all outstanding disputes between the two flying airlines. Stanley Hart, chief executive of Toronto-based Canstar Corp. who was a labor lawyer and mediator in the 1970s, supervised the discussions at the request of the two airlines. He met with ten executives from the two sides 20 times between Nov. 28 and Dec. 15. Hart declined to divulge any details of those talks, citing a confidentiality agreement signed by all the participants. But despite the breakdown, he said, Mediators' that the talks were cordial, and that the terms of a potential settlement were as the table when both parties walked away. "They knew exactly where a deal was before they chose not to make it," he said. He added "it was always as simple as saying, 'We'll cross that bridge when we get to it.'"

At first glance it is difficult to see how using private mediators instead of the courts can save businesses money. Unlike court judges, private mediators are not arbitrators charged the winning parties for their services—up to several hundred dollars an hour. But if mediators are successful, they usually allow both sides to avoid costly litigation that can drag on for years—exactly the prospect that Air Canada and PWA fear.

Although Hart failed to resolve the airline deal, the breakdown appears to be an exception rather than the rule for cases that go to ADR. In a survey released last fall of 340 commercial disputes in Ontario in 1991 and 1992 that were heard by arbitrators rather than judges, Toronto lawyer John Carson and University of Toronto law professor Bill Graham found that 93 per cent of arbitration cases were settled without any further appeal to the courts. As well, they concluded that arbitrators are far less costly and time-consuming than litigation. In total, 95 per cent of the arbitration cases were resolved in less than six months. By comparison, Carson and Graham found that it takes an average of 10 months to get to court. They also found that the arbitration hearings took an average of three days, compared with up to 10 days for court trials—with both sides paying fees from an average of \$20,000 to \$25,000 a day for their attorneys. Lawyers argue most commercial arbitrations, and many arbitrators and mediators are lawyers themselves. But because arbitration procedures are less formal than those in a court, Carson and Graham say that the daily lawyers' fees "should be substantially lower."

Despite these apparent advantages, use of ADR in Canada has historically been concentrated in the construction industry. There, builders and developers in charge of even the smallest projects usually sign documents—even in informal contracts with suppliers and tradesmen. Last year and delays are inevitable. But the building contract allows to have many projects stand off while they wait for a judge to resolve a dispute. As a result, construction professionals in most major Canadian cities offer arbitration services. In Vancouver, the Associated Construction Association's service is 25 years old. Delfino Bellomo, a retired chartered accountant who coordinates the service, said that informal panels are more likely because they are made up of builders, plumbers, electricians and other experts who are already familiar with industry terms and practices. As for the benefits to outside lawyers from separate cases in front of its panels, said Bellomo: "We don't want to get into a lot of legalese and gobbledygook."

Most companies with extensive dealings in the Caribbean, Africa and elsewhere in the Third World have also concentrated ADR before. Cases that promise for arbitration of disputes arising in those countries have

Business Notes

LOOKING FOR WORK

Canada's national unemployment rate climbed to 11.2 per cent in December from 11.0 per cent in November according to Statistics Canada. The federal agency said that while there were an estimated 7,000 more jobs in the economy, an extra 30,000 people also joined the workforce in December. The net result was an increase in the ratio of the unemployed by 22,000 to a total of 1,587,000. Through 2003, unemployment in Canada averaged 11.2 per cent, down only slightly from an average of 11.3 per cent in 1992. The small increase in total employment in December followed a surge of 30,000 new jobs in November. Economists have been predicting that Canada's unemployment rate will remain close to 10 per cent in 2004.

A SOUTHWOOD VICTORY

Under orders from a WTO panel, the U.S. Commerce Department eliminated duties on Canadian softwood lumber. Although the department stated that it "strongly objects" to the panel's interpretation of U.S. trade law, it has not confirmed whether a final appeal will be launched. Washington wants to enforce a 6.51-per-cent provisional duty on Canadian softwood lumber imports. Canadian producers, who have fought the duty for years, say the duty is unfair. The duty took effect in 1992, could get the money back as early as next month if there is no appeal. In December, the five-member panel dismissed a U.S. claim that Canadian softwood lumber was unfairly sold and became more competitive artificially low for companies to cut on Crown land.

NATURAL INTRUSIONS

The Ontario Securities Commission (OSC) has published a regulatory review of the Canadian mutual fund industry. Over the past year, assets in the mutual fund sector have climbed 30 per cent to about \$150 billion. According to OSC chairman Ed Wallace, much of that money is from first-time investors who have transferred their savings from bank deposits and guaranteed investment certificates into mutual funds to achieve higher rates of return. However, many of these investors are accustomed to protection by the Canada Deposit Insurance Corp. and the ability to recover their GICs if a set rate, which is not the case with mutual funds. The commission's review is headed by lawyer Gabor Szabo.

been a conscious decision of most associations of contracts for decades. According to Roger Macgregor, a Windsor, Ont.-based mediator, arbitrator and consultant who has represented contractors and other clients in several Third World nations, the courts and legal systems in those countries "are just too corrupt," not real be needed by outsiders at all costs.

But within Canada, use of ADR is slowly starting to spread beyond the construction industry—even in large, complex cases. One of the biggest arbitrators in the past, Sanger, is easily doing in Fort McMurray,

Alta., in 1997. The company acknowledged general responsibility for the original fire but in 1993 Sanger filed a \$10-million lawsuit against several engineers and contractors who built and maintained the plant, as well as the suppliers and manufacturers of electrical cables in the plant. The company alleged that the covering of cables in the plant had the propensity to spread fire. Lawyers for the almost 100 parties in the case, including Sanger, the contractors and their insurers, held formal preliminary discussions over the next three years.

In the fall of 1995, the parties settled in a Vancouver-based lawyer and mediator, Don

Munroe to organize future proceedings that settle the matter. Munroe guided the parties into agreeing to an undisclosed settlement which they signed last June. "If we'd gone the full nine yards with everyone with these new terms, we would have been in court until 1995 or 1996," says Webster Macdonald, a Calgary lawyer who represented one of the engineering firms involved. He joked "It was settled with much pleasure to those who would have paid the bills, and much disappointment to those who would have collected them."

Cost-averse governments are also turning to ADR in an attempt to cut down on the tens of millions of dollars they spend every year on court battles. Like private companies, Ottawa and the provinces often pay out more in legal fees and court costs than the sums at issue in lawsuits—just to prove a point. In one widely cited 1992 decision, Justice James Macneil awarded a Saskatchewan building contractor \$100,000 in court costs and interest expenses, as well as a \$150,000 settlement, after the federal public works department took a dispute over the contractor's overtime charges all the way to the Federal Court of Canada. In his decision, Justice said that Ottawa "should have resolved this matter soon after the completion of the contract."

To minimize the cost of such disputes in future, the Treasury Board of Canada issued a directive last January to all other federal departments asking them to use arbitration rather than the courts to resolve contract disputes. The directive also gave federal contractors permission to send cases to arbitration themselves, without seeking prior approval from the justice department. However, arbitrators and arbitrators say that one of the biggest obstacles to the spread of ADR is lawyers and the legal culture. Donna Thompson, a Vancouver lawyer who is chairman of the Canadian Bar Association's ADR Initiative, says that law schools still teach lawyers how to fight cases in court rather than settle them at early stages. Many law schools are now introducing courses to ADR. But Thompson said that older lawyers steeped in traditional litigation techniques "are extremely reluctant to try something new."

Dispute procedures to counteract that mindset is difficult. In the talks between Air Canada and PWA, Hartt met with just two executives from each airline. But those executives, in turn, consulted with their lawyers, damage brokers and business managers. "You could tell their influence," said Hartt. As a client the one I have mentioned towards damage-conscious lawyers, after all, people who were used during the wreckage. Hartt added that anyone sat in the meeting room will inevitably ask, "You agreed to what?" And until that attitude changes, resolving commercial disputes in any form will likely tax both the process and the wallets of Canadian business people.

Spinning gold from folksy yarns

David Chilton's profits mount from his investment advice in *The Wealthy Barber*

David Chilton ignored plenty of good advice when he wrote a folksy guide to financial planning called *The Wealthy Barber* in 1960. Before publishing it, he tested the personal-financial advice from Chilton, Ont., says that he checked opinions on draft copies of the manuscript from family and friends. Their reviews of the book, which weaves basic financial advice into a simple story line with a cast of fictional characters, including a barber who dispenses conventional financial advice to three young people, were mixed. Chilton says that his sister, who inspired the character of the smart-mouthed sister in the book, wanted an even simpler explanation of the basic financial principles he wrote about. But the toughest criticism—and ultimately the wisest advice—came from a top Toronto investment adviser. "Reads like Chilton," he said to me, "Gus Dine, you're a nice guy and everything, but this approach is so simple-minded. People want charts and graphs and numbers."

So much for professional advice. Since it was published the year ago, *The Wealthy Barber*—with only a few numbers and not a single chart or graph—has sold 600,000 paperback copies, making it, according to Chilton's publisher, Stoddart Publishing of Toronto, one of Canada's fastest best-selling books. "It is a phenomenon," says Helene Abo, communications manager for CIBC, Canada's largest bookstore chain. Although no agency in Canada keeps official records of best sellers, Abo confirms the book's sales claims appear accurate. "Usually a book sells a lot of copies for a year or two and then it fades away," says Abo. "This one did longer selling and selling." In fact, *The Wealthy Barber* has led CIBC's best-seller list for the last three years. It said it has generated sales roughly estimated at \$1 million with something like \$1 million of that going to Chilton. Building on that success, Chilton wrote an anniversary series in 1994 and last year he taped a series for public television in the United States that features the unlikely combination of financial advice and



stand to comedy. And with revenues from the book adding to first from speaking engagements and royalties for the television show, *The Wealthy Barber* has made Chilton, now 52, a wealthy author.

But it also does much more than that. Regardless of critics who are put off by Chilton's folksy format, the book is reaching people who do not want to make a career—or even a hobby—out of managing their money. Chilton's advice is basic and carefully explained. He encourages readers to save 10 per cent of their income, and then

Chilton's using a charity format to great readers' advice answered financial plans

demonstrates how, through the power of compound interest, a modest savings program that is begun early in life can grow into a fortune by retirement. But while the message may be familiar, the manner in which it is delivered is not. Chilton takes the usual personal finance book one step further in well as using the humor and other entertaining characters to hold readers' interest, he repeatedly answers readers that if they follow his advice, they will become wealthy. Thus, he describes as loving detail the dream houses, cars

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otions, gains and losses they could afford.

Even competitors like Gordon Page, a former journalist in Toronto who, like Chilton, has developed a career as a personal finance syndicator, are envious of the country doctor. The *Wealthy Barber* Stock Plan "What David has done—and it's a great credit to him—is to open up what was a closed door for many people. He made financial planning accessible to a lot of people, especially young people who seem to enjoy his book."

Chilton's position for his subject is somewhat unusual when he was still a teenager. Although his father, a French teacher, was completely uninterested in investments, his grandfather was a stockbroker. And when Chilton was 10 and at grade 10, his grandfather gave him \$5,000 to invest. He says that he lost it almost immediately by buying silver at \$45 an ounce, nearly to all-time high prices. "I made very little money on the sale," recalls Chilton. "I didn't remember, I bought on impulse, I didn't research properly. Of course, I just chafed it up in bad luck, not my own stupidity."

But the experience did prompt him to take a more analytical approach, avoiding Chilton says that he began developing financial planning books. "My father well thought: 'I was shocked by losses,'" says Chilton. "I'd read four or five a week." He says the first book he read was one that predicted impending financial disaster. That kind of crisis investment book is generally popular, he says, because people are afraid of the unknown. "But the problem with these disaster books," he notes, "is that they don't tell you how to successfully protect 10% of the last two decades."

Chilton started a couple of small financial businesses when he was attending St. Wilfrid Law University in Waterloo, Ont. He lost one in his third year of a four-year economics program, but in 1994 he started a stockbroker. His timing was exquisite: the stock market had entered a lull only that ended on October 1987. And when he wrote the book for the Canadian Securities Course, the basic requirement for stockbrokers, he says of trading profit: "It was my hobby," says Chilton. "That time I'd read hundreds of books on personal finance—I didn't study I just went down and wrote the book." Of the 4,500 people who took the rigorous investment course last year, Chilton got a quarter of the mark and was the only one to fail.

Still, Chilton is highly critical of stockbrokers. In *The Wealthy Barber* is (not, he says,

it advises readers to never buy stocks from a broker, although he does recommend they do select agents for mutual funds and for financial advice. One character in the book is a former stockbroker who says, "After five years I got disgusted and quit. My commissions were great but my clients' investment performance was dismal. It hit me hard when I realized it was all a game." In another anecdote that Chilton says actually happened to him, the character describes how, when a

man they like to pass them on to their kids." Since the stock market crash of 1987, just as the leading brokerage firms have managed their retail customers to sell mutual funds, rather than individual stocks, so Chilton warns for the industry's own strategy.

Like the character in his book, Chilton soon became disenchanted with the investment industry. But as a result of speaking to programs he discovered that he did like talking to customers. So he put together a financial management course specifically designed for teachers, and began planning to make a career out of public speaking. He wrote the book merely as a sideline for his speaking plans.

The idea of using a barrier to discourage advice to turn financial disaster came to Chilton when he watched an episode of the television show *Clash*. In another stroke of luck—or good planning—he published the book. The reason the first publisher that he approached refused to give him the special rights to transform the book to companies for distribution to their clients and employees. As *The Wealthy Barber* gained popularity, Chilton says this was the special sales agent that made him the most money. Now, he estimates that his book has made sales account for about 40 per cent of the 600,000 copies of the book that have been sold.

Why has Chilton's book been so successful? The author concludes that the reason is the for us in which characters act as devil's advocates for readers. "The characters in the book put forth the objections and ask the questions that the average person wants to," says Chilton. "At present financial books say: 'Save 30 per cent. We came back and had the characters say, 'Yeah, but where am I going to get it, budgeting down a week and then doing nothing for the whole.' These are the objections that people have. The books answered them as they go."

And that is what sets *The Wealthy Barber* apart from other personal finance books. People buy the book, they read it, they understand it, they like it and some of them act on the advice in it. "Everywhere I go people tell me that the book has changed their lives," says Chilton. "It's kind of amazing." Indeed, of the 10,000, 30 years from now Chilton could be well remembered as a best-selling author, but to the man who inspired thousands to save there is no postscript.

RENEE DALGARNO

BUSINESS WATCH



When Germans turn into sour 'Krauts'

BY PETER C. NEWMAN

With unemployment expected to reach six million this winter and as economic stagnation through its worst crisis in 80 years, businesses by mounting their losses instead of agreeing to the change, which would have meant overtime pay for their members, the retail trade industry itself rejected the revolutionary idea of closing early after 6:30 p.m. on weekdays, beyond 5 p.m. on Saturdays, or doing any business on Sundays.

That attitude of preserving the status quo at all costs has driven Germany into the unenviable position of having the world's high wage costs. About half of the G7 hourly average labor costs are paid with 35 to 35 in Canada—just towards employee benefits. (Some companies still quietly grant their employees' children free seats and dorms for church confirmation.) But the biggest cost to employers in a work week that is 20 per cent shorter than the hours put in by North American counterparts. As well, most German employees get not only six weeks of regular vacation a year but are also paid up to 16 months for working only 15, as well as being granted 12 to 15 public holidays. This growing casual talk of being dedicated to "higher standards, with only increased remuneration for sports of work, prompted Chancellor Helmut Kohl to complain recently, "A successful industrial nation—which means a nation with a future—doesn't allow itself to be organized as a collective unemployment camp."

The Germans, who once lived to work, now work to live—and not very hard at that. Their laboring work ethic has underpinned access to traditional export markets, while Germany's productivity gains have significantly offset the country that since about 1970 has lost its lead in economic indicators has virtually perished out of world trade. The powerful Deutsche Bank's chief economist, Werner Kapper, has warned that

The only reason the local media have stopped reporting on racial violence is that there is so much, it's no longer news

Germany will be lucky to achieve zero growth in 1994 after a two-per-cent drop in 1993.

Denied the opportunity to seek a national political identity by the legacy of Hitler, the Germans have never so far tried to define themselves in terms of economic class. That worked until recently, even though the economy has been in relative decline for the past 30 years, even since the rapid rise of the value of the Deutsche mark in 1975. In terms of the important measuring sticks—productivity, growth of gross domestic product, rate of inflation—Germany now lags behind France and even Italy. Last year, as the current recession deepened and these dramatic shifts struck home, the Germans grew disillusioned and bitter.

Even the most public German confidence trunks such as Mercedes (which saw its profits along 45 per cent in 1993) and BMW are shifting production lines to North America, while other factories are quietly being moved to the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary, where costs of labor are a quarter of domestic rates. Another of Germany's competitive liabilities is that, as the benchmark currency in the European

exchange rate mechanism, the mark is now dangerously overvalued.

Although Germany's powerful economy has lost much steam, its potential is still very real. The country's future political direction will be tested this year with no less than 20 national, state and European elections. Polls indicate that two-thirds of Germans still follow Christian Democratic coalition in newspapers, but the opposition Social Democrats, pampered by several squabbles, don't offer much of a skunkweed. Most Germans feel that Kohl, who has been chancellor for more than a decade, had better leave by 1998, may be able to pull off one more election. Paradoxically, one of the factors helping him has been his position as a known quantity standing up against the profound sense of angst and uncertainty triggered by the economic hard times his policies helped create. His own ad of the situation cracks back to the lively ghosts of Germany's history. "The end speaks that have come to life again in the Balkans are not unique to that area," he says, referring to the revival of racism and Nazism in his own country.

The only reason the media have virtually stopped reporting on racial violence in Germany is that there are so many, it's no longer news. The wave of anti-Semitic attacks in 1992, with 60 Jewish cemeteries being desecrated—as many as suffered a similar fate in the violent Irish holiday period between 1928 and 1931. More than 2,000 attacks on foreigners were reported in the past year and the German intelligence service has documented the existence of 52 "right-wing extremist organizations," only seven of which have been officially banned. The threat of this in the legislation, says, run by a former SS officer named Franz Schickelshuber, which will be controlling federal and state elections this year. "The soul of the German people is in a dog fight," former chancellor Helmut Schmidt said recently. "Ultimately, whenever Germany is too strong or too weak, there has always been turbulence."

Researchers with shared heads and split eyes are paraded on national TV, each current interviewers trying to determine whether they're in Nazi or anti-Nazi headlines. The consensus seems to be that with three million unemployed, a vast number of citizens, Nazi symbols and salutes are used mainly to grab attention.

With unemployment in the western part of Germany running at 11 per cent, and at 30 per cent in what was once East Germany, it has been the persistent and inflating foreign market that has been the main lifeline. There are six million "foreigners" living in Germany at the moment, and nearly half-million young workers, mainly from Yugoslavia, have arrived each year. The 1.8 million resident Turks bear the brunt of the attacks, with foreigners pushed further into the margins of the economy.

All in all, Germany has become a nation populated by sour angry sour Krauts.



Wired World

CANADIANS ARE
CROWDING ONTO
AN ELECTRONIC
HIGHWAY OF
FAST-GROWING
COMPUTER
NETWORKS. THEY
ARE USING THEM
TO MAKE MONEY,
DO SCIENCE,
FIND LOVE, TALK
DIRTY AND TAP
VAST AND VARIED
POOLS OF
INFORMATION.

BY MARK NICHOLS

In 1980, Phyllis Smith gave up her job as a political speech writer after suffering a serious head injury in an automobile accident. Convinced in her Toronto apartment, she began experimenting with her personal computer and discovered a realm that she had barely known existed—the electronic and rapidly growing world of computer networks. By now, she has become a confirmed network "junkie." A subscriber to four different services, Smith, 48, and another older lady, as so a Toronto-based bulletin board service (BBS) where the emphasis is on social contacts. Other times, she dials up the Rockville, Md.-based Color network, where she can skate through an electronic version of *The New York Times*, take part in discussion groups on subjects ranging from science fiction to Canadian politics, or learn electronic messages—e-mail—do network acquaintances all over North America. "It is really exciting," she says. "To be able to do so many things with a computer—to meet people and learn things. It's changed my life completely."

Smith isn't the only person whose life has been transformed by computer networks. From modest beginnings two decades ago, the networks have spread rapidly to form an enormous and intricate global web. And for the growing thousands of Canadians who have already savored cyber space—which is what computer enthusiasts call the computerized world that lies behind the flicking screens of their terminals—a neo-cybernetic realm has become a part of everyday life. More network users log on to Internet, a vast superhighway of more than 40,000 networks crisscrossed with scientific and scholarly information and thousands of discussion forums (page 42). Because Internet provides channels for instant electronic communication, it has inadvertently altered the way scientists and scholars do their work. Other network users are hooked on meeting people or searching for romance on locally or regionally based bulletin boards (page 46). By creating fast-lane "virtual communities" or people sharing common interests, the networks are making their influence felt in the business world, in politics and government, in journalism and in schools (page 47).

They are also making headlines. In recent

months, police have cracked down on illegal computer-disseminated pornography in Toronto and Winnipeg, while Ontario government officials have struggled to suppress criticism of the province's nuclear power program that leaked the publication list on testimony from the *Karl's Hoosier* manslaughter trial. At some point in the future, computer networks may be absorbed into a larger electronic data system that telephone and cable TV companies are plotting as the information superhighway—a single, interactive system linking telephones, television, cable and computers over broadband fibre-optic lines. But for now, computer networks are the highway—open jammed with traffic and, to true believers, laden with limitless significance. "In terms of revolutionary events in human history," says Dr. Stephen Wolff, director of networking at the National Science Foundation, which provides over Internet's U.S. backbone network, "I think Internet and computer networks in general are on a par with the invention of printing. Never before has it been possible for so many people to communicate directly through printed messages."

According to Statistics Canada, some 34 million Canadian households—or 23 per cent of the total—now have at least one personal computer. Some experts estimate that half a million of these households also have modem-connections that they can be connected to networks. Currently, about 25,000 Canadians are two of the country's largest networks—Toronto-based CDS Online and the National Capital FreeNet in Ottawa. As well, hundreds of thousands of Canadians use Internet through university or corporate links, or as subscribers to commercial services that provide Internet access. Thousands more are connected to such U.S. services as CompuLink, OpenNet CompuServe and America Online, based in Vienna, Va., or to the local sites that have sprung up in most Canadian cities.

Other Canadians are exploring cyberpace through an interconnected system of community-based, freeware networks called FreeNet that offer e-mail facilities, discussion forums, sports schedules and other information. So far, FreeNet are up and running in Ottawa, Victoria and Trent, B.C., and FreeNet



committees are organizing systems in 16 other Canadian cities.

As the computer connects extend three electronic borders and the technology that runs them becomes more user-friendly, sophisticated computer networks are demonstrating their power and versatility. Examples:

- Like millions of academics around the world, Louis Trefler, a physicist at Montreal's McGill University, uses Internet to maintain close work with other scientists. In 1992, Trefler collaborated on a paper about superconductivity with scientists in three other North American universities. Because the collaboration took place mainly over the computer network, the scientists involved never had a face-to-face meeting. Internet, says Trefler, "has really changed the way scientists work. I send e-mail to people around the world—and two doors away."

- In December, Nigel Banerjee, a Toronto business consultant, celebrated the half-day Jewish festival of Hanukkah by organizing a festive campaign in Conservative's religious sector. As cash contributions for Jerusalem's Shalom Tashel Hospital flowed in, candles were added to a computer image of a menorah, the candles lighted nightly at ShalomTashel. "Once you have a group of people coming online," says Banerjee, "it's sense of community develops."

- In November, computer networks became embroiled in a legal controversy over the case of Karin Hontela, who was convicted in St. Catharines, Ont., last summer of manslaughter in the deaths of two teenage girls. After U.S. newspapers defied a court-ordered publication ban designed to ensure a fair trial for Hontela's estranged husband, Paul Trefler, attorney from her trial also started showing up on computer networks. Ontario justice officials issued stern warnings, and most network sites operator in Ontario responded by closing down discussion forums carrying details of the case. But discussion of the Hontela incident was still appearing on sites, including Toronto's privately run Mosaic server. Late in December, as well, provincial officials identified that e-mail servers and other users of an Ontario government computer service could get access to files containing the banned Hontela material at the University of Waterloo. "It's a joke,"

EXPLORING A WEB OF NETWORKS

WHAT YOU NEED

A fully equipped at-home personal computer, with a potential 486 Intel microprocessor, sells for about \$2,000. Cheaper units can be bought for about \$1,200. Modems, which connect PCs to networks via telephone lines, start at about \$75 and range up to \$350 for a high-speed performer. As well, network users need communications software for their computers, such as the Think system, which costs for about \$85, or ProComet Plus for about \$125.

NETWORKS

Powered networks, including U.S.-owned Decisio, CompuServe and America Online, or old Online of Electronic On!, can be pricey, but they offer news and financial information, electronic games, on-line shopping, chat lines, discussion forums and mailing accounts of Internet users. Costs range from Can Online's \$130 annual subscription fee, including two hours a day on-line (Online Internet service also), to CompuServe's (free 350 membership) and Decisio's (monthly charged) listing at \$5.

BULLETIN BOARDS

Volunteer lists about 350 of them, Windows has 145 and others list about 140. At least there are thousands of computer lists in Canada—mostly news, usually posted at private homes and offering newcomers free or low fee as little as \$5 a month. Many times specialists in some area of interest—computer technology and even popular topics. Other, larger communities can also have discussion forums relating to different interest groups, as well as electronic games, digital art or science subjects. Some bulletin boards, like SciFutur's Web, give advocacy groups a place to find out of community and interlocking.

JOINING THE NET

A growing number of firms specialize in providing a subscription with access to Internet. For \$69 a year, Vancouver's Mediaset offers customers two hour of free on-line time a day (additional time costs \$11.95 to \$2.45 an hour). Houston's CompuLink, of Winston, Ore., fits up around \$100 a month for Internet access with 50 hours of free time a month (additional time \$10 cents an hour).

and Toronto-based IBM Canada, to set up CA*Net, which links provincially run computer networks across the country and acts as the Canadian segment of Internet.

And then, come up, Internet was virtually the prime province of scientists, academics and university students. Now, word has spread, led by Washington's practitioners of the "Net" as a synthesis of a future information highway. Provoked by the decision in the first U.S. chief executive to have an Internet address. As a result, curious private citizens and businesses are crowding on to Internet at a rate that is doubling its size every year—and at a time when the Net may be facing fundamental changes.

Currently, the Net spreads about 800 million each year to corporate Internet's backbone network for the U.S. research and academic communities and, in the process, indirectly influences much of the other traffic in the system. But last April, the foundation asked telecommunications firms to submit proposals on how they would operate parts of Internet. Roger Taylor, a former senior official at Ottawa's National Research Council and now an executive officer at the foundation, says "the thinking is that it is time for government to get out of the communications sector and let it open."

Proposals have poured in from some of the same large corporations—including Telecommunications Inc. of Denver and Philadelphia-based Bell Atlantic—that are now growing up to supply American homes with interactive systems to deliver movies-on-demand, video games and financial services. Similar changes may be in store for CA*Net. A consortium of corporate and educational institutions called CANARNet (the Canadian Network for the Advancement of Research, Industry and Education) has launched a \$10-million agreement of CA*Net—with some government support—as part of a two-year, \$115-million program to expand and improve Canada's electronic infrastructure.

Some Internet users fear that if parts of the Net are taken over by cable operators or telephone companies, a user's Internet address, a search character might be altered. "The culture of the network will begin to change," says Theodore Carroll, co-author of *The Canadian Internet Handbook*, which will be published this summer. "It's already beginning to change as cyberspace and business users monitor each other on the network." Discouraged in the past from using Internet, businesses, including Canadian firms, are now finding reasons to do so. Despite no national law on advertising over Internet, dozens of computer and software companies make their presence felt on the net while providing free software and technical information at discussion forums dedicated to their products.

A Halifax bookstore has already demonstrated how an Internet site can be used as a virtual storefront. In August, bookstore Borealis Books decided to host the 1,500 volunteers attached by Internet, Borealis Computer Books, which specializes in computer-related literature, on the Nova Scotia Technology Network, a

A fast and seamless global link

Link Inc., a Gartner, N.S. firm that specializes in distance electronics, uses the Internet computer network to carry on business around the world. One of the major sales contacts for the firm, which employs 40 people and does about \$4 million worth of business a year, was to develop a point analysis system for the Australian navy. Almost soon can locate and identify vessels by analyzing underwater sound waves. An Hantec, a small electronic device, says that the firm uses Internet's real-time facilities to transfer analysis of complex computer programs to Sydney, Australia—in 18 minutes. "The beauty of e-mail," says Hantec, "is that it's fast, efficient and seamless."



Link Inc.'s firm uses Internet to carry on business in distant Sydney, Australia.

says Link Carroll, a Toronto computer consultant. "As soon as one person's mouse is clicked down, the story shows up somewhere else."

- In recent months police in Toronto and Winnipeg have escaped down on 800 operators who were transmitting pornography to sites that included seniors' websites and with adults and children. Experts say that electronic pen is growing in popularity because computer's ease in with e-mail and video can easily receive high-quality graphic images. Some Canadian and U.S. universities have begun restricting access to parts of Internet where legal—and illegal—pornographic images are available, often from European sources with more lenient laws. "Anybody with Internet access can get this stuff," says Kamran Jahromi, who operates a Toronto computer security firm.

The fast-growing computer world is dominated by Internet, the globe-grabbing superhighway of networks that links more than 2 million companies and more than 30 million individual users in about 60 countries. Besides providing access to huge amounts of information on virtually any subject, Internet also serves as a relatively cheap communications system that allows academics and scientists, business people and others to make electronic messages across the globe or around the world.

The e-globe network dates back to 1969, when the U.S. defense department, fighting the Cold War, decided to build an experimental computer network that could survive disruption and support strategic and military research in the event of a nuclear attack. The network was based on technology known as packet switching: messages get into electronic envelopes, or packets, are broken up into coded fragments that find their own way over patchwork phone lines and reassemble themselves at their destinations. In 1986, the Washington-based National Science Foundation (NSF), a U.S. government

agency, used the same technology to link five supercomputing centers across the country, which at the time acted as hubs for regional networks linking universities and research institutions.

With traffic growing rapidly on the network, a consortium of universities and private companies was formed in 1987 to operate the Internet backbone. Over time, other computer networks, including public and commercial networks in North America and Europe, began links to parts of the NSFNET, and the spreading globe known as Internet was born. Internet is not owned or controlled by any single organization, but a body called the Internet Engineering Task Force sets standards for the network.

The Canadian segment of Internet began to take shape during the mid-1980s when universities in British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec formed links with the U.S.-based network. Then, in 1989, the National Research Council designated the University of Toronto

A new Pacific Rim partnership

Machiko Hasekura, a physics professor of the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, is involved in a project that hopes the way science is done in the computer age. It is an experimental effort of testing theories about fundamental aspects of the universe: scientists plan to examine the decay of a subatomic particle called a kaon next year at the Laboratory for High Energy Physics 50 km outside of Tokyo, Japan. Currently, scientists in Canada, the United States and Japan are running computer simulations of the experiment and transmitting the results to participants over Internet, the worldwide computer network. "Without the network," says Hasekura, "there is no way we could carry out a project involving scientists thousands of miles apart."

systems accessible through Internet. "We were trying to find a way to serve all of Atlantic Canada," says Jones. "We didn't realize that our listing could be seen all over the world. Half the inquiries that come in were from overseas." Since then, Jones has sold hundreds of books to customers in the United States, Europe, Australia and Japan.

Other firms are phasing into Internet to gain access to the network's transactive e-mail system. According to Michael Brumfield, an Ottawa entrepreneur who founded the weekly *Atlantic Business Journal* in May, thousands of Canadian business owners now use Internet and the number will increase rapidly, "because it's an extremely low-cost and efficient form of communication."

Newsrooms are also starting to change the way journalists work and the way newspapers and magazines reach their audiences. Some reporters have broken stories by analyzing data collected by public institutions. In February, journalist Patrick Burns Doshak, an assistant

editor for the *Halifax Nova*, used a spreadsheet—a software-crunching program—an his home computer to discover information that the Nova Scotia government did not want made public. Starting with raw data that gave the results of tests carried out at universities and Nova Scotia high schools, which he obtained under a freedom of information request, Parker used his computer to rank schools broadly and determine which of them were performing well or badly.

Like a growing number of journalists, Doshak, who lives near Sydney, N.S., has also been "locating" information sources by posting inquiries in Internet newsgroups, where experts in almost any field can be located. "You just go on and say, 'I'm looking for someone who knows about whatever the subject is,'" says Doshak. "and you'll get quite a few hits." Last month, Bill Doshak, a reporter for the *Halifax Leader-Post*, placed a request on two commercial on-line computer networks while working on an article about, ironically, the electronic revolution sweeping the information and entertainment industries. "Within three days, I had the replies," says Doshak.

In another development, electronic versions of such publications as *The New York Times*, the *Toronto-based Globe and Mail* and a number of magazines are now available to libraries and businesses through databases that store issues going back at least five years. There is access to these databases through a computer network—or a pipe. Typically, a corporate subscriber in Calgary pays at least \$200 a year, as

well as online charges of around \$20 a month, for Internet, which carries the rates of 75 newspapers and magazines, including *Newsweek*, and other information.

Some news is available at a much lower cost. About 20 U.S. and Canadian newspapers, including *The Montreal Star* and the *Ottawa Citizen*, use computers, or lists, local computer networks to make limited amounts of editorial material available, and to promote themselves by encouraging discussions of local issues in network forums. Dennis Connerella, the *Star*'s assistant managing resources manager, says that the newspaper's 1992 Link service—which provides subscribers with a selection of news from the daily paper and 30 discussion forums—may become the nucleus of a future *Montreal Free-Net* system. "We got into this," says Connerella, "because we didn't want to use space else being a primary information source to the community."

Computer networks have also begun to play a role in politics. During the run-up to the Oct. 26 general election, Jean Chretien's Liberals operated a nationwide bulletin board to distribute information and get feedback from party members and campaign workers. "Candidate discussions about campaign issues would get going on the board," says Greg Atchak, who was the riding of Winnipeg South in the election. Three years ago, the Liberal British Columbia unit became the first—and so far the only—political party to set up a bulletin board, which carries news releases and policy papers and runs discussion forums that are open to the public. During debates over the proposed *Charlottetown constitutional* accord in October, 1992, B.C. Liberal party officials reported about 40 calls a day on the list. "You can tell what the hot issues are because they are the topics that get hit in the discussion conferences," says Floyd Bully, a member of the party's executive council.

Looking further ahead, some communications experts forecast a time when interactive electronic communications will merge and everything from news-on-demand and home shopping services to electronic texts and network television will be available over the same "broadband pipes," or TV computer set. "Let me make a bold prediction," says Michael Bender, an assistant deputy minister at the federal department of industry. "Ten years from now you won't know at any where your data is coming from. The distinction we make between telephones, television and computers is going to disappear." In the meantime, the rapidly expanding computer networks, by helping millions of users to work, learn and have fun online, are providing a fascinating preview of the electronic future. □

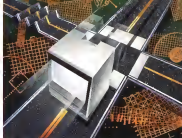
Making music by computer



**Feeling like
Sasha Marie
and her
Macintosh to
help record
an album and to
print a digital
self-portrait (Bart)**



In early 1991, Scottish-born Kathleen Bully, 26, moved from her home on the Halifax island of Nova Scotia, performing music on synthesizers and other electronic instruments. Convinced that digital signals could be fed into a Macintosh computer, the music was transferred via computer network to GS Sound in London, England. Because most networks cannot transmit the full richness of the human voice, Kathleen's singing was recorded separately and mailed to the studio. Then, the singer flew to London for the final round of music and vocals for the album *Colours and Only Colours*—released in April, 1992.



Inside Internet

THE 'NET' IS
CRAMMED WITH
SCHOLARLY AND
SCIENTIFIC DATA,
PUBLIC RECORDS,
RECIPES, WEATHER
REPORTS, AIRLINE
SCHEDULES—AND
ENDLESS CHATTER

Every day, an estimated 300 gigabytes of data—the equivalent of a half million 250-page books—pour through the U.S. section of Internet, the huge computer network that links universities, research institutions, government agencies and businesses around the world. Last week, *Maclean's Science and Technology Editor Mark Huleb*, a newcomer to computer networks, explored the "Net" and its various newsgroups, where debates and discussions take place. His report:

It is the newsgroup called *about:body*, a common has a page on about whether people who crave so-called natural body experiences are fitting with statistics. "Yes, this is natural," a participant insists. "If you do this, you are opening yourself up for all sorts of demonic spiritual activity in your life." In *about:group*, another group is obviously aware about who really shot the 19th president of the United States. In *us:culture:news*, someone has put forward the idea that herding cows could chop an entire Canadian contribution to pork food. A discussion develops about oil and energy. Several chapters are in Canada or a British province?

On and on it goes, an endless flow of chatter on a

network packed with a mind-boggling assortment of conversation and information. Lodged in the system are huge amounts of environmental, medical, scholarly and scientific data, government documents and public records, recipes, airline schedules, weather reports, the full texts of the Bible, the Torah and the Quran and a Star Trek archive at the University of Nebraska.

A good place to begin exploring is in a section called *about:us*, the gateway to Internet's estimated 3,000 newsgroups, or discussion forums. After clicking on *about:us*, the Internet user can gain access to top news groups that welcome sports, Spanish culture to news reports, by typing an abbreviated title such as *us:group:about:us:news:about:us*.

In addition to the formidable list of easily accessed subjects, Internet users over the years have built up a roster of "alternative" groups. In the alt news groups, discussions are unmoderated, frequently raucous and sometimes racist. In alt, where 1,501 messages were posted in a recent five-day period, the talk included a male participant's tale of masturbating to a mall, as spread by an Ottawa-area photographer for a male female model ("The body will be used as a design element forming a landscape") and a young woman's request for advice on sex and techniques (she said to "bring the help if someone else expected to discuss it with a person would be best").

A more serious Internet region can be reached through the Gopher system, a type of index that lets users browse through the resources available at thousands of universities and institutions. There are gophers—reached by clicking a selection on a gopher menu—for the U.S. Library of Congress, the United Nations, for scores of U.S. and Canadian universities and even for whole regions of the world, including Africa, Asia, Europe, South America and the Pacific. At someone needs a web available at the *Stoke Academy of Sciences in Bradford*, this is the way to find it.

For the nonscientist, there is a rich trove of knowledge and entertainment. Users can consult their horoscope, check on the weather anywhere in the world or play electronic games. A database at *Edinburgh University of Manchester* contains plot summaries, cast lists and details for more than 4,500 post-1950 movies. The music library at the University of California at San Diego has thousands of more than 100,000 classical music compact disc recordings. With the right equipment—a software device called a sound card—users can receive digitized music from a number of online sources and play it through their computers. All kinds of images, from paintings to photographs, are available. In a typical news group posting, an Internet user recently advised, "If you are interested in using Grayscale GIF pictures, please send your e-mail address to me."

Elsewhere on Internet, lovers of literature can tap the resources of the University of Minnesota's Project Gutenberg, which is making the texts of thousands of literary classics available online. Among the books already in the online *Lexicon Cantabrigia* at *Harvard*, the *Commentary Magazine* by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* and *Marshall's Study Guide*, all after spending time immersed in General Internet, the user drives into *Erasmus*, a collection of essays, the same user takes the time to explore alternative groups—alt, her, alt, news, alt, news, alt, news—many berks away from the outside world's electronic network that is Internet. □

I love connection

TRADING COLOGNE AND MAKEUP FOR A COMPUTER AND A MODEM

"I WANT SEX, SEX, SEX, SEX, SEX, SEX, SEX."

"You looking for love, but in this the rate place?"

—recent writings on the Web, an electronic bulletin board on the Hot Spot, an online profile board cyber in Toronto

Getting together has never been so complicated. AIDS, date rape, body image, bad leeches—with all the current pressures and phobias about looks, personality and sex, it's a wonder people meet and fall in love at all any more. But in the place of singles bars and one-night stands falls into sexual history, more and more Canadians are letting their fingers do the courting. Trading cologne and makeup for a computer and a modem, the lovers and the run-ons now can communicate intimately with other computer users around the world. And because they typically use as their computer couriers not only word-exchanging body fluids—they don't even exchange names. Talk about safe sex. "You can put on whatever hat you want," says Shannon Hawley, a 39-year-old Ottawa who met her husband, Chris, on an Internet chat line. "You can act whatever way you want, and nobody knows the difference."

Now, there are many more romance shops on the electronic highway. But among the weather reports and scientific data, advice and arms-unsparing cybersexes, love—and lust—are rampant. Along with increasing public access to Internet, there is a boom in locally run bulletin board systems (BBS) that offer users a chance to "chat." In the Vancouver area alone, there are more than 350 such systems, many oriented towards explicit cybersex material. And as an added attraction, Chat Cybersex never closes, most BBS open 24 hours a day.

Hawley first got caught in "the Net" after a one-sidedly taking a week off from Ottawa's Notre Dame High School to recuperate last February, she logged on to the National Capital FreeNet, an Ottawa service that provides coxswain access to Internet. By March she had learned to use it, or, better, Relay Chat, which links people in different Internet areas. There, while trying to avoid getting into with Anne on Easter Sunday, she connected to a Free-Net in Cleveland and, divided in the pseudonym Melissa, started chatting with a Cleveland user going by the name of Mr. Chris—aka Chris Hawley, now 35, who was working on a computer network at the time.

That first, hour-long chat—about networking,



Shannon and Chris Hawley love—and lust—are thriving on international networks

"It was hard for me to comprehend, how I could be so friendly with somebody I'd never met."

the Great Lakes and where Cleveland is exactly—began a whirlwind computerized romance. "It seemed overnight we got to be best friends," says Shannon. "It was hard for me to comprehend, how I would be so friendly with somebody I'd never met." They began talking on-line every day, getting to know each other. "There's some people—they call it flak men—who are into some sort of kinky masochism and oddity thing," says Chris. "But we were too busy trying to figure out each other with spending and good people we really were." A week later, they exchanged

telephone numbers and moved one cautious step further on the road to matrimony—meeting by voice. He sent her video letters she sent him some photos of herself. Finally, at last May, Chris hitched a ride to Ottawa and met Shannon at Dancin' 24-hour restaurant at 8 a.m. "It was awkward," she recalls. "After being so comfortable with someone, all of a sudden you're faced with all of these things to look at and all really talking. For the first two weeks, I was sure I was doomed to failure."

It wasn't. On Sept. 11, after Shannon had visited Chris in Cleveland twice during the summer, the couple were married in Kanata, just outside Ottawa, by a local minister they met on a Free-Net bulletin board. Now, Shannon, who plans to attend university next year, has a job doing clerical work for Canada Post. Chris, who quit his job in Cleveland, has yet to receive the needed immigrant status that would allow him to work in Canada. And what does he do in his abundant spare time? He says he spends six or seven hours a day on his computer, much of it talking to friends. "You can talk about things that are important to you," he explains. "And as long as you're both being honest, you get to know somebody."

Of course, intimacy is not what everyone is looking for. On any one of dozens of sites of online dating-only services, claims across Canada can exchange trinket messages and electronic mail (e-mail) in almost complete anonymity. In the "Hot Talk" and "Good Core" areas of FidoNet, which links about 40,000 sites worldwide, callers who will likely never meet one another exchange daily letters. "I slowly approach you," writes Sanguinity from Fort McMurray, Alta. "Without exchanging a single word you turn to face me, we reach for each other, our arms wrapping around each other our lips meeting, first gently then more demanding, I feel your lips pressing against my chest, causing my stomach..." A female caller, Mystique from Vancouver, B.C., replies: "I like the Leather, silk and Satin thing myself! Headlocks are a thing that I find amusing... Hmmm thinking about it gets me kinda hot." And so on.

What is the attraction of such anonymous ways? "It's like having a sexual relationship like having a one-night stand, but without the intimacy," says Boston-based social worker William Ryan. For the past 10 years, Ryan has treated people whose fantasies with computers may be a symptom of underlying interpersonal relationships. "When you have someone on the screen," he says, "there's no real human being there—it's all your fantasies, what you think the other person looks like, what they would like. You're like an island." And people hooked on computer sex, he adds, "are probably more comfortable in that experience than they are in having a relationship where you put things out about each other."

Although the Internet has made it possible to communicate, even Shannon Hawley acknowledges that there is a downside to connecting over the computer. "Sometimes," she says, "if you don't watch out, it can become your one and only way of communicating with the world." In cyberspace, the best—and the blindest—are lonely hunters.

JOE CHIERLEY



Smash with student Dumas using the computer network is 'just an cool'

Cyberspace schoolhouse

Clinton Wright, a Grade 6 student at Beaver Valley Middle School in Pinetree, B.C., planned to spend part of this week working with a partner on a project to study the activities of North America's First Nations. That in itself is hardly unusual. What is more startling is that the 13-year-old partner is not a classmate at Beaver Valley or even another student in the same school district in southeastern British Columbia. In fact, Wright's companion does not even live in Canada. Instead, armed with the powers of linked computers, Wright will be doing his research and writing his report with a partner in an school more than 3,000 km away, in Holyoke, Mass. "I'll use e-mail," the Canadian student explained to *Maclean's* in an electronic message over a smaller computer link. "We will be trading information from each other's libraries. Each teacher will get a copy [of the report] and mark it."

That innovative assignment should earn the administrators of Wright's school district an A for initiative. While most Canadian schools have installed at least some computers, those in British Columbia's Pinetree, based in the city of Trail, are among the first to connect their machines to others outside the classroom. As a result, the district's 5,500 elementary, middle- and high-school students can now communicate electronically with libraries, databases and fellow students around the world.

These new powers expand the large role that computers already play at Beaver Valley. School announcements are often broadcast by loudspeakers in new classrooms on classroom computer terminals. Teachers are able to transmit to maintain students' records, which are filed electronically with the school office—and kept off-limits to students. Many of Beaver Valley's 270 pupils, meanwhile, use the computer link to draft and correct assignments. Notes Grade 8 student Lynda Parkerson. "Computers help because I can type faster than I can write, and it's much easier."

Said the critical link with other computer users came only last year. With \$750,000 in provincial funding and the support of local volunteers, school administrators first established an electronic network linking all 12 area schools, then opened it to the community at large. The result was Canada's third so-called Free-Net, or nonprofit community computer network, linked to the U.S. Free-Net international Internet. The month-old connection, says Grade 6 student Jennifer Dumas, "allows us to travel around the world."

For teachers like Grade 6 social studies instructor David Scamell, the network is a potent new tool. "I've got kids reading congressional records," Scamell enthuses. "They think it's just an cool." Also available through the Internet are hundreds of academic and research libraries' information from numerous Canadian and foreign government agencies, more than a dozen other community Free-Nets and a federally funded network of educational databases named specifically to school the Internet-based Canada School Net. But to Wright, the network's appeal has less to do with the standard goals of education than with youthful curiosity. "I like to go into NASA and find out the detail patterns of the space shuttle," he says. "It takes about 30 seconds." For the students of Beaver Valley, tucked into a once-overlooked drift of the rugged Selkirk Mountains, such achievements affirm their wider citizenship in a world where computers are making geography increasingly irrelevant.

CHRIS WOOD in Vancouver

PEOPLE

Victory on ice and snow

When a busy-fare collection of nonpareil Canadian juggernauts won the World Junior Hockey Championships in Ostrava, Czech Republic, last week, it caught a few fans off guard. True, Canadian juniors had won four of the previous six world titles. But the team that coach Joe Carmichael took to Europe did not have the big-name stars of past years. Most of the country's top players were committed to the Olympic season or had signed with National Hockey League clubs. But Carmichael quickly moulded a tightly knit team that played inspired hockey throughout the seven-game tournament event. That was especially apparent on Jan. 4, the tournament's final day, when the Canadians defeated the highly touted Swedish 6-1 in a down-to-the-wire championship game. "It's a pride thing; we wanted to show that Canadian juniors are still the best," Carmichael said.



Canadian hockey players celebrating on the ice.

But the juniors' gutsy triumph was not the most surprising Canadian sports achievement of the week. In curling, Canada's two-day team won Canadian women's curling world by defeating first, second and third in a World Cup double. Because of high winds, the course at Southport had to be shortened and the race run in two stages. Bob Podnievsky, a talented 23-year-old from Edmonton, set a blistering pace in his second run and topped Calgary native Cary Mulliken, 24, by less than half a second to capture his first-ever title. Ralf Bucher, 36, of Kemptville, Ont., said he felt words Luc Alphand of France: "It's crazy, I'm really amazed," said a stunned Podnievsky, who had never finished higher than eleventh in a World Cup race. "When I heard Cary was first and Ralph was fourth, that was incredibly motivating."

The results were heartening to a Canadian men's team that has not shared top in World Cup podium since Bob Beatty conquered Whistler, B.C., in 1990. Canadian team officials hoped the strong showing signalled renewed competitiveness, and would boost the team's confidence going into the Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway, next month. But for one day last week it was like old times for the men. As Podnievsky said, it was crazy. As is Crazy Canucks.



'God. Why me? Why me?'

U.S. figure skater Nancy Kerrigan, winner of the bronze medal at the 1992 Winter Olympics, had a disappointing World Championships last year, performing poorly and finishing fifth. So last week, she was determined to prove herself at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Detroit, and to qualify for one of the two women's skating spots on the U.S. team to the Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway, next month. Instead, the American skater fell victim to a twirling attack. A man ran through the skaters' area as Kerrigan stepped off the ice from a practice session, came up behind her and hit her right knee with a bruising blow from a metal bar. As Kerrigan crumpled to the ground screaming, "God. Why me? Why me?" the unknown assailant escaped. The next day, Kerrigan, an



able even to hop on the leg, had to withdraw from the contest. With that, her hopes of going to Lillehammer rested with the U.S. Olympic committee, which appeared likely to include her by special order—if she shows that she can recover in time for the start of the Feb. 22 competition.

In Cleveland, former star Monica Seles, sidelined since being stabbed last April at a tournament in Hamburg, called for an end to the senseless attacks. "My thoughts are with Nancy," said Seles. And Canadian skating officials responded by beefing up security for this week's Canadian Figure Skating Championships in Edmonton. The Olympic organizing committee in Lillehammer also was reviewing its arrangements. But security can only do so much in a sport in which athletes move freely among fans. Said Brenda Garman, a spokesman for the Canadian Figure Skating Association: "Security has always been at its practice venue." After the incident in Detroit, that could quickly change.

Kerrigan attacked with a metal bar



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THE BIG MAN ON CAMPUS

Greg Newton is getting an education—and a reputation—at Duke

Greg Newton began university last fall with a lot on his mind. The 19-year-old from Niagara Falls, Ont., had been accepted at Duke University in Durham, N.C., a school with demanding academic standards. No less daunting for Newton was the task of adjusting to other classes—working out with the Duke Blue Devils basketball team at labeled Cameron Indoor Stadium. Gothic, stone and subterranean, Cameron looks more like a chapel than a basketball arena—which is fitting enough as a state where college hoops are enshrined with "unfathomable fervor." That arduous regimen, along with the traditions of Blue Devils success, has been known to put pressure on blood-spurred recruits like Newton. But just as he has learned his way around the school's pastoral campus, the Canadian—all six feet, 11 inches, all hairs—has found a niche at Cameron. "It's anything, the atmosphere in there works for me," he said with a broad grin. "I used to flatter on their enthusiasm, and it makes you want to go as hard as I can. It's fun to play in that atmosphere."

By raising a place in one of America's pre-eminent college programs, Newton has risen to the head of Canada's class of outstanding basketball prospects. But he is not alone. Basketball Canada is charting a growing number of top-flight Canadian players who have graduated to university programs in both sides of the border. Although there are only two Canadian players playing in the National Basketball Association—forward Rick Fox in Boston and center Bill Wennington in Chicago—grassroots participation is



Canada is booming. Facing the surge are the higher costs of off-campus living, the high-speed lifestyle of the NBA—and now the expected arrival of NBA franchises in Toronto and perhaps Vancouver. "In a sense," says Don Malaret, program manager for Basketball Canada, "it has become the sport of the future."

For Newton, widely touted as a future pro, basketball was not a tough choice. He was already six feet, four inches when he started Grade 9 at A. N. Myers High School in Niagara Falls, and had arms that extended like construction cranes. By Grade 10, he was receiving dozens of letters a week from universities for big U.S. colleges. He chose Duke, he says, because its recruiters were not pushy and showed the scholar as well as the athlete. Duke, meanwhile, loved his stride. "The quality that I liked right away was that he had to play," says his coach, Mike Krzyzewski (pronounced she-SHEP-sk), the high priest of Duke basketball who is known simply as Coach K.

That enshrined excellence has made New

The Canadian of Cameron Stadium
"If anything, the atmosphere in there works for me!"

ton a favorite of the Cameron "crusies." The Duke fans whose drunken cheers cascade from the bleachers reach from the crowd and are called upon to yell one of the stadium Blue Devils' chants. Last month against South Carolina State, where he scored above the rim to score a third dozen alley-oop dunks, Cameron shook with euphoric chants of "New! New! New!" From the front row, Demented Kevin McGuire, a second-year student from Chicago, explained how a rookie second-stringer had become so popular. "He has his own thing. Besides, he's a lot of a lot less, and the team needs a guy like that."

But keep! Sure, he wears a gold hoop earring. But that is hardly news on campus these days, and it disappears whenever he scores. Cameron—his coach does not allow them. And Newton's home life is no softer. Morning, a language arts and physics teacher in Niagara Falls who was a basketball star in high school. "I got my basketball talent from her," he says proudly. But he did not earn his full scholarship to Duke—where undergraduate expenses are estimated to run about

\$22,000 annually—for being a nice guy. He is expected to live on campus at a room that captured back-to-back national championships in 1991 and 1992, and last week was ranked third on the nation's "life is a gift" list," says Krzyzewski. "There are just many guys over six feet, 50 inches who can run the floor and handle the ball the way he can." Newton is also praised for his aggressive play—a trait he inherited from his late father, a sometime major league pitcher with the Milwaukee Braves. "You're not supposed to hit people in basketball," says Newton. "But my Dad always said to hit them anyway, to make them think twice when they come over you."

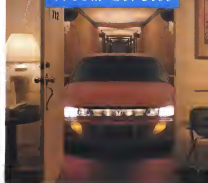
Newton has been hitting the books, as well, although he has yet to decide on a major. "I was kind of scared at first, because the reputation is right there with the big League schools," he says. On the other hand, the new career who says "oh" instead of "huh" still has not acquired an ear for the North Carolina accent. Transcendent Jeff Capel, a guard from near by Fayetteville, "says things to me that, even after he repeats it, I don't understand," Newton says. More confounding is his subtle celebrity, boosted by the Blue Devils' repeated appearances on network television. "The odd person wants to meet you just because you're a basketball player," he says. "There are guys who you know, speak up and there was this guy who wanted me to get her tickets to the basketball game. I didn't even know her."

Although he has played well off the bench, Newton is a long way from starting. The star-studded Devils have talented big men in junior Charles Davis, a senior, 13-inch center, and six-foot, 20-inch forward Erik Meek. That translates say that Newton does more than simply sit at occasionally. "We were too loose in our first two games, but we bounced up and started to play better," says Grant Hill, the team's all-American senior guard who starred on all of Duke's national championship teams. "Grant brings a lot of that relaxed attitude," Krzyzewski says. "He's a guy who Newton is a quick study. "The only thing that keeps Grant from being a great player are the things he doesn't know yet," Krzyzewski says. "It's up to us to teach him those things and it's up to him to learn them. The rest he will."

Whether Newton achieves, he won't likely lag in playing at Cameron. It is a rugged test of presence where the crowd translates each and every 100-foot rebound into a war of will, and a sometimes cruel sense of humor. It chafes, it hurts, it indicates opposing players. The only thing it does not do is sit. That atmosphere put adds fuel to Newton's fire. After his crushing at-by-own against North Carolina State, as the arena shook, he roared back to his defensive position with a big frown broken open on his face. His heart was pounding he said afterward. That night was he did not have the words. "Listen, it's starting coming in and playing in front of 10,000 people. You can't just sit there and be placed." That day, "I'm young. I'm excited." Who says such a word on the floor?

JAMES DEANON in Durham

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LIFESTYLES

A crook, a womanizer and a hero

Israelis await the movie *Schindler's List*

They are old men and women now, the decades past the most dramatic—and traumatic—years of their lives. There are more than 300 of them worldwide, Holocaust survivors saved from the Nazi gas chambers by eccentric German industrialist Oskar Schindler. And in Israel, where nearly half of them live, they are growing a touch apprehensive as they await the Israeli premiere in March of Steven Spielberg's acclaimed Holocaust story, *Schindler's List*. "I am worried what kind of Schindler Spielberg will portray," says Moshe Topik, a draughtsman and keeper of Nazi documents in Schindler's manufacture history and later an Israeli wartime agent. "He'll do it, but, damn, the survivors knew how nearly a character Schindler was. He was a blackmailer, a crook. But he was their crook, and they would not want anyone to get him wrong."

"Schindler was a drunkard," says Topik, now 73. "Schindler was a womanizer. His relations with his wife were bad. His life had not one but several girlfriends." But without him, Topik adds, 1,200 Jews would have perished. "Everything he did put him in danger," says Topik. "If Schindler had been a normal man, he would not have done what he did."

What Schindler did was to shelter his workers at his plant near Cracow, Poland. Later—with his own money—he bought their freedom on a list of Jews he submitted to a new plan in what is now the Czech Republic—moving them from the notorious death camp, Auschwitz. As played by actor Liam Neeson, Schindler is a complex character who transcends his in-the-moment persona to become a hero—but remains somewhat opaque in the process. Twenty years after the war, Topik adds, Schindler, who he had nicknamed his "kiss," "I know the people who worked for me," Schindler replied. "When you know people, you have to behave towards them like human beings." Another survivor,



Movie scene of women leaving Auschwitz; the real Schindler (below); synagogue

74-year-old Tel Aviv dentist Jonathan Dresner, recalls that as one fully understands Schindler's motives. "He was an adventurer," Dresner recalls. "He was like an actor who always wanted to be centre stage. He got into a play, and he couldn't get out of it."

Schindler first saved Jews from Auschwitz. Later, when Dresner started up a costly new machine at the factory, it broke down and the local SS commandant ordered Dresner sent to a concentration camp. "We all knew," says Dresner, "that wasn't the Christianism." But Schindler pled the Christianism with vodka and stayed a trial. "He put on a real performance," Dresner recalls.

"Schindler convicted me of breaking the machine and sentenced me to three weeks on the night shift. Then he came over and kicked and punched me—but not on my head. He had saved my life again," Dresner acknowledges that Schindler exploited the Jews as slave labour. But his mother and sister were among 300 women saved when Schindler bribed the SS with diamonds to release them from Auschwitz. That, Dresner says, "was something nobody else did."

The postwar Schindler remained very much in character. When the Germans surrendered in May, 1945, as he prepared to flee before the Red Army, the women at his factory presented him with a ring made from gold teeth that one of them had volunteered. At their first reunion, in 1961, survivors asked Schindler what happened to the ring. "Schmucks," he

dropped. Although Schindler profited on the wartime black market, he failed at several subsequent business ventures and a group of survivors in Israel raised money for him through a "If we lost \$3,000 to \$4,000, he spent it on two or three wives," says Topik. "Then, he phoned to say he didn't have a penny."

Schindler came to Israel for a month every spring from 1961 until his death in 1974. The survivors paid his bill in a modest Tel Aviv hotel. On his birthday, April 28, they and their families gathered for tea. "We would all emigrate was sealed," Topik remembers. "Then he entered like a private investigator. Schindler loved children. He saw all the children and grandchildren of those he had rescued as his own family." Some years, Schindler brought his German mistress, a woman remembered only as Mrs. Margot, to share his Israeli holiday. He slept late, never rising before 11. His favorite spot in Tel Aviv was the Dan cafe, where he held court at a pavement table. When he died in Germany, another mistress—his doctor's wife—informed the survivors that he had asked to be buried in Israel. About 500 of them attended the funeral in Jerusalem's Mount Zion.

In all, there are an estimated 6,000 Schindler survivors and their descendants worldwide. That his appeal is even wider. With the release of the film in North America, tourists have started leaving a path to the Catholic cemetery where he lies. New Yorker Jerry Deakins was one of the first. "I was so moved," he says, "I wanted to come here and place a pebble as Schindler's grave." Schindler would surely have drunk to that.

ERIC SEXTON in Jerusalem

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THE ITALIAN HELLION

Early on Vittorio Rossi's new play, *The Last Adam*, the black sheep of the Revue family sits slumped at the dining-room table, with his brother and sister. Salvatore has just returned from a restaurant where due water refused to speak English but repeatedly insist on the face of the young man's accented French. His older brother Mario smiles and nods his approval. But eventually how he let his tongue, paid his bill, even left a tip—and then took the water outside and "popped out" "not anymore." "He goes down like a F—king fairy. The manager comes running out and I say, 'You just remember who my father-in-law was. I'm a concerned guy.' I'll have you shut down in a minute."

That scene, which was being rehearsed in Montreal's Cretan Theatre last week, epitomizes what people love—and hate—about Rossi. In his brief but successful career, the 29-year-old writer has thrilled audiences with his spicy dialogue and vivid recollections of Italian-Canadian life. Yet some reviewers and critics have complained that his plays perpetuate a damning ethnic stereotype—that of the bawdy, strenuous Italian who is quick with his fists and loves his car more than his wife. Montrealer Rossi, a first-generation Canadian who grew a white



Vittorio (left) and Silvio Rossi spy dialogue, machismo and the rhythms of the streets

Montreal playwright Vittorio Rossi stirs love and hate with streetwise characters

1980 *Highs* crew and has not been in a fight since. Rossi, who admits that such accusations used to make him smile. Now, he says, he feels them like lightning. "The people who tell me that do they know about Italian stereotypes?" I prefer not a teacher of mine once said—that I'm not working with stereotypes. I'm working with prototypes. Richard Zepher, the Toronto-based actor who plays Salvatore, has just acted in three other Rossi plays: *agrees*. "The first-generation Italian too" he

says. "And the words of the characters come easily out of my mouth. It's almost as if I write them myself."

Rossi's sharp wit and skill at characterisation show him his acumen at the craft of the writer. His earliest works, his one-act plays *Let's Blow Another* and *Blackwater*, received the top prizes in the Quebec Drama Festival in 1986 and 1987. His first full-length work, *The Chair* (1984), was a box-office hit despite the fact that the director and a lead ac-

tor quit two weeks before the opening in a conflict over script revisions. "The bottom line with Vittorio is that his plays are very entertaining," says Montreal artistic director Maurice D'Amboise. "He knows which buttons to press, and the audience always responds."

Like Rossi's earlier works, *The Last Adam* (which opens on Jan. 15) broods with humor and raw emotion. The only new Canadian play at the Cretan this season, it starts out in a sleep-poor family drama, then reveals

into a strategy and concludes with a bang. So far, the truth about the childhood death of his twin, Adam, and after what he has tragic consequences. Musical playwright writer Harry Sokoloff, who appeared in *The Chair*, notes that Rossi is "not afraid to send his characters right to the brink, to put them at high emotional risk. It's brave, and it's dangerous."

The Last Adam is set in Ville Éclairée, a working-class Italian district in south Montreal. It is where Rossi was born, and where he has lived for most of his life. Like fellow Montreal playwright David Foenkinberg, who moved upon Paul St. Charles in his point of reference, Rossi has found inspiration in what he knows best: the rhythms of the streets and the daily convulsions and crises of his friends and family. *Let's Blow Another* and *The Chair* are all set in Ville Éclairée. *Sleepover* (1989) takes place at a downtown disco store, but the principal characters, two competing shoe salesmen, are Italians who Rossi sees as "from the neighborhood in my mind." And Rossi is writing about a subject with which he has firsthand experience: for six years he was a shoe salesman at the downtown Bell clothing store where he became the Cretan's playwright associate in 1987.

To Rossi's critics, *Sleepover* was criticized at home (review as being in an Italian restaurant near the Centre, speaking extra cheese on his pasta). Rossi states his head when he remembers the controversy. "They said the two characters (Dino and Giuseppe) were offensive, that Vittorio must be Italian now," he says. "To me that's fairly obvious, because the playwright is the same as his

characters. Anyway, I turned down those characters. A guy who I worked with in the shoe store came to see the show, and after what he said, 'Good job, Vittorio. But you know, we were much worse than that. And he was right.'"

So, Rossi's next play, *In Presence of a Cow* (1990), was an ironic response to the controversy inspired by the 1989 massacre of 14 women at the University of Montreal's health polytechnic (and specifically by the fate of student Mario Blais, who was in the classroom when the killings occurred and later committed suicide). *Cow* takes place in an unnamed bar in an unnamed city. It is a thematic departure for Rossi, as well as a prophetic one. He describes the work as "an attempt to understand what attracted and possessed a man to do such a thing." Some critics, however, regarded it as an unneeded expression of feminism from a playwright more comfortable exploring the world of macho men.

With *The Last Adam*, Rossi is returning to the familiar ground of the Italian Canadian community. The playwright says that, but not family, while being the sort of loud, assertive that dooms the lovers, is nonetheless "the source of all my best material." Rossi's employer told him, since he came to Canada from Toronto in 1983, that he was a "good" Canadian, a "good" man, a "good" son, a "good" brother. Vittorio, the only child born in Canada, was partially shy as a teenager, yet always seemed to work in the theatre. He was the only child to go to university and felt strong family pressure to succeed as more traditional professions such as engineering, law or business. So when he enrolled in the

theatre program at Concordia University, he felt obliged to support himself and began his long shoe-store career. But Rossi is still very friendly close to his parents and siblings. And although he is somewhat of a loner, finally moved from his parents' house to a downtown apartment last year, he says he constantly visits them in Ville Éclairée. "When I first enrolled in university school," recalls Rossi. "My father said, 'You're so big, what do you want to go to school with acting for?' But when I passed some courses, we were awarded, he got as my side. Now he does nothing but brag."

Rossi also has branched out into acting and writing for other media. He played Don Marone in the 1991 HBO/CBC series *When Angels and Demons* and was featured in a commercial with Claude Lévesque, one of the producers of *The Age of St. James*. Meanwhile, his plays have been finding audiences beyond Montreal. Two years ago, *Let's Blow Another* and *Blackwater* were produced in a small Off-Broadway theatre in New York City. And with the successful staging of his plays in Toronto (two months ago), he has started to reach the scene in that city.

The playwright sometimes worries that many of the Italian traditions that figure in his plays—bawdy broths of balconies in the hill, trading gardens, pressing grapes, cooking in the local rules for espresso coffee—will die when the older generation passes on. But at the same time, he says he finds "beautiful" that Ville Éclairée is changing, that all the Italian kids speak French, that a large number of Asian immigrants still the neighborhood have.

For Rossi, that kind of cultural assimilation is what makes his city, and his country, fascinating—and helps the stereotypes of Canada the hell. The playwright believes the primary elements of that image: "How many other countries do you know that in the field of theatre and film, their name actually designates something negative: something cheap, something poor and boring?" he says. "You can't think of any. You say, France, you say, 'Oh, must be very Italian!' Oh, must be passionate and romantic. England? Oh, must be a little bit and happy and intelligent. America? Oh, must be overground and action-packed. Germany? Oh, must be expert mental and may be over there." Canadian? Oh, well, let's go have dinner. "It's like that with nearly everything in this country except hockey. And it's something I would like to try to help change."

Scene from *The Chair*: "We believe with Vittorio is that his plays are very entertaining"



ALAN SUTHERLAND in Montreal



THEATRE

Dolls 'n' a guy

CRAZY FOR YOU
Music and lyrics by George and Du Gershin
Book by Kim Linkay
(Directed by Mike Delany)

It is a bit like a little antique. *Crazy for You* looks and sounds like a 1930s musical, but while the songs really are old (they were composed decades ago by the great writing team of George Gershwin and his sister brother, Ira), the story and dialogue are actually modern. American writer Neil LaBute, author of the international hit comedy *Lost in Translation*, has teamed up with the great Gershwin tunes to get the tap shoes moving.

**Gershwin tunes
get the tap
shoes moving**

son to have plenty of both. Its hero, Bobby Child (Jim Walton), is a rich young New Yorker whose mother (Barbara Hershey) keeps him in a straitjacket of neurotic dependency. Bobby wants to dance in musicals, but the closest she will let him get to the stage is to send him to Deadrock, New York, to audition on an old theater. The owner, Everett Baker (Tony Danza), cannot meet his mortgage payments. Bobby falls in love with Everett's daughter, Polly (Kathleen Scott), and sets out to save her beloved theater by mounting a musical in it. In the end, Bobby and Polly find all the love and money they need, but not before *Crazy for You* has run through a tangle of plot complications, complete with a few all-New York chorus girls who have

traveled west to help Bobby out. If everyone in *Crazy for You* is chasing personal happiness, the musical as a whole offers a vision of a world where everything that is normally difficult has suddenly become easy. When Bobby and his chorus girls begin to teach the sulky men of Deadrock how to sing and dance, their changes are transformed quite magically into slick performers. In one delightful scene, a clumsy brute called Moose (Bobby Prohaska)

Prohaska) awakens an underdeveloped optimism.

It seems to play the heart on about half a music. And everyone else leaps, dances and sings as if there were nothing to prevent them from flying to Mars and back. In the process, they are deconstructing the musical—and basically childish—appeal of American musical comedy. It breathes the oxygen of an unadorned optimism. It declares that anything is possible, if you have to do as much as badly enough.

New Yorker Carol Strussman's robust, award-winning choreography helps give this vision its kinetic energy. She covers the large, almost 40-percent cost around the stage with the precision of a master traffic cop. And everything happens with an almost bewildering quickness, wrenching the last dramatic snarl at the climax,

listening to the racing snarl of jokes, as if he's taking in a very last sports car.

And yet speed is the enemy of promise. Indeed, the danger of musicals such as *Crazy for You* is that they become so fast at climbing over the surface that little real emotion (other than stark excitement) is evoked. That is why the performances of Walton and Scott are so crucial. There love has to be credible if the show is to have any depth. Walton, an American with much Broadway experience, is an impressive comedian, and he dances with an explosive abandon. But he performs with a certain grace. A look like a great dancer, he is a little bit in competition with him. That leaves Kathleen Scott to carry the emotional load. She sings with beautiful, partly because she has a quality of single identity that shows the audience to trust her. Her version of some of the great Gershwin classics are inspiring and poignant. But without a complementary warmth from Walton, *Crazy for You* struggles along on one wing.

Still, the musical features many fine supporting performances, including David Macchi's Lark Harlowe, Deadrock's disheveled, white-eyed saloon keeper. And there are some hilarious moments, as when Bobby depicts himself as the New York expatriate Bela Zangler, then meets the real Zangler (Victor A. Young) over the breakfast table.

Yet the spectacle never achieves an impact greater than the sum of its parts. Musical comedy evolved partly from old musical shows of linked acts and in a sense that is what *Crazy for You* amounts to: a series of brilliant interludes on the trail of a vision that only a child might finally believe in.

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Sorecruiter William Nicholson of *ShadesOfLands* from his hit 1999 there is nothing stinky about Gordie Richard Menzies' edifying intimacy working on a sea after a career of directing such of as *Canada* and *Chaplin*. Winger's is also for her character—her best performance in years meanwhile, is brilliant as Lewis.

Lately, the French have been protesting Hollywood's invasion of their cinema: a protest personified by *Avantage* Park's campaigner Trax. These cinema goers see what the French are trying to protest: I would be hard pressed to find a more eminently European film than *Blue Is a Wonderful Existence*, one with not

DAVID D. JENNIFER

BOOKS

Shaping Canada's soul

GEORGE GRANT: A BIOGRAPHY
By William Christian
(University of Toronto Press: 423 pages \$29.95)

The life of the Canadian philosopher George Grant stands as a monument to the virtue of being out of fashion. At a time when most of his colleagues were concentrating on serious problems of injustice and hope, he insisted on tackling the age-old issues of justice, beauty and truth. As social scientists and politicians tried to improve entire societies, Grant labored and wrote of the inescapable aloneness of the individual soul before God. And as impruders of every other thing, the graces of expanding technology and industrial economy, growth, Grant tried to show how such forces were undermining our humanity. In his own country, he polarized people: Grant was lionized as a great thinker, dismissed as a self-righteous rascality, and claimed by supporters on both sides of the political spectrum. But in William Christian's

out in his splendid new work, *George Grant: A Biography*, his subject remained "the lone wolf who defied classification."

During his long career, Grant—who died of pancreatic cancer in 1988 at the age of 68—had a much more immediate impact on the Canadian society than might be expected from a philosopher. His first came in political attention in 1966, when he published his political masterpiece, *Lament for A Nation*. The book, which decried the steady absorption of Canada into the United States, rapidly became a best-seller. And its deepening, near apocalyptic vision played a major role in creating the intellectual movement of the 1960s and 1970s. Grant also appeared occasionally as a social commentator on CBC radio and television, where his grave, deep voice and cultured phrases gave his arguments a seductive theatricality.

Grant was known as a charismatic speaker

during his long tenure at Dalhousie and McMaster universities. An excellent speaker, he would become so engrossed in discussion with his students that he frequently forgot about his cigarette, the ashes usually ended up in the folds of the shirt covering his academic stomach. Informed in his approach, he would sometimes show up in class with holes in his shoes and a tie for a belt. On one memorable occasion, his eyes were closed beneath his just cuffs. But his students overlooked all that, in the best of Grant's enthusiasm. One of them recalls in the biography, "In the first class that I took, which was *What's a Scholar*, there was a sense of excitement, passion and the absolute centrality of the need for justice."

**George Grant
was a major voice
of nationalism**

determining into history. And it is a pity that early efforts at capturing the struggles of the young Grant to find his place in life—born in Toronto in 1924, Grant later moved to St. Catharines, Ontario, where he was the headmaster of the city's prestigious Upper Canada College until his death in 1988, when George was 68. The pivotal grandfather was a staunch-



Grant: charismatic teacher, passionate thinker

supported principal of Queen's University in Kingston, Ont. And his maternal grandfather, Sir George Parke, was a New Brunswick-born businessman who rose to become the first administrator of the famous Rhodes Scholarships.

Grant's mother, Maude Parke, never let

her son forget that he was expected to emulate these Gent. Mrs. Maude was a leading in the women's social issues in Toronto between the World Wars—but she was a somewhat distant and cool parent. All his life, Grant hoped to return to his mother's peaceful province of home and approval from her. Despite the academic success that led him from Queen's to Oxford on a 1950 Rhodes Scholarship, the young intellectual sometimes saw himself as an orphan and a loner.

Grant was a pacifist and, leaving his family disappointed, refused to fight in the Second World War. Instead, he worked as a medical assistant among the poor in London's slums. Christianity's creation of the Bible and its effect on Grant as a superb Grant loved the people who were bearing the onslaught of the German bombs, and he worked himself to the point of physical exhaustion to help them. Their suffering and his own breaking health brought him to the edge of suicide. But then in the formative moment of his life he had a vision of God's presence and left that, faithlessly, all was well.

Christian is right to emphasize the ex-

istence of his subject's religious beliefs. Some of Grant's more awkward affirmations tend to downplay his Christianity, but the biographer shows how Grant's entire career was an attempt to understand the ramifications of his virtuous vision. The author is less convincing, however, when he contends that Grant's faith was a continuously triumphant force in his life, so if he was, a stranger to doubt and despair. There are plenty of hints strewn through the biography—Grant's compulsive musing and thinking, his occasional and negative—strongly putting a check aside to the main Christian vision, showing that he was that visionary, but in this he may only be following Grant's example. On the evidence offered by the book, Grant did not possess a great deal of energy to knowing himself.

For on the whole, the biography is richly compelling. It traces Grant's intellectual debts and innovations by thought—present in such essay collections as *Freedom and Justice* (1966)—in a clear and stimulating way. It explores the crucial importance of his loving and tragicomas marriage to Oskari, married Sheila Allen, with whom he had six children. And, above all, it demonstrates the philosopher's own passion for living and thinking—an achievement that makes George Grant a moving and enduring contribution to Canadian history.

JENNIFER HARRISON

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The hills are alive with the sound of money

BY ALLAN FOTHERINGHAM

It is Halloween in the snow. Zipping down the slopes come a half-dozen skiers all dressed in identical costumes. They are wild yellow and crazy orange in stripes, circles, triangles and squiggles. All around them appear conservative cloths by comparison, garbed in more solid red or snow-binding green.

The skippers have their eyeballs even while wearing shades. These are the visitors from Tokyo, where everyone apparently wants to look the same. And Halloween comes late to Whistler, 90 minutes north of Vancouver on the three-line bus.

The Japanese are here, and the Californians and the Brits and the Germans. For the past three years, the American ski magazines have rated the twin-mountain complex of Blackcomb and Whistler as the best winter resort in North America. The *Financial Times* of London has just gone one better, proclaiming it "the best of Europe and North America."

There is no sign of a Canadian recession. Whistler is recession-proof, because skiing is an upper-middle-class sport. A lift ticket per day is \$44 (plus the infamous GST). The restaurants at 30 m. are full of tourists with tents who should never be situated beyond a Woody's. The ride-of-fear attraction by the Blackcomb brain is that per hour it will cost you about \$1,000 a week. Life is not here.

And the money keeps rolling in. Over the holidays Blackcomb, with its high-speed lifts and a plastic bubble over the sking/chalet chalet protecting your precious nose, recorded their successive days of more than 30,000 skiers on the slopes.

The proprietors don't want any more—until they develop yet more runs on the massive mountain where one run is seven miles long. At the bottom of the Jersey Centre run they've built a quarter-size casino/restaurant with the breadth of a Volkswagen.

They looked at the original architect's plans three times and started all over. The new joint cost \$5.7 million, a mere \$2 million throwaway in the abandoned blue-



prints. The chair is five-star hot. Canada includes both Whistler/Blackcomb and the Nordwand/Callaghan. Life indeed is not fair. At the bottom of Blackcomb, where you can swim at the Chateau Whistler is a gentleman's opening from the indoor pool to the snowy forest of the outdoor pool and watch your mitts fall, every morning at end of day will sending the boots from weary legs that can't get out of their skin. When an electrical wiring sticks the lifts for 10 minutes, each four by four finds a note tucked under the windshield apologizing for the delay.

Back South was 17 when he graduated from a New Westminster high school and, adopting the French custom to get into university, took a year out as a lift attendant at Blackcomb. He never returned. Today, at 46, he runs the place, confidently throwing out \$5 million blueprints if they don't look right.

Now, he gets to Mount Tremblant, in the Laurentians, a BMW skip-and-jump from Montreal. Blackcomb, three years ago, decided to bring to Quebec skiers (and others and chase onto the lights of Blackcomb). They're getting in \$425 million over five years. This year, they ploughed in \$23 million.

It's one of the reasons why Canada won't fall apart, can't fall apart.

Brian McInnes, staying at the Laurentian house of Paul Desmarais Jr., on New Year's Day—pushed by his children—returned to the slopes.

South and his men are selling real estate on the property in a province that isn't selling real estate. There's a 1,000-acre restaurant going in and, next year, a hotel. There's going to be an 18-hole golf course that's located to be the best in the three full golf course operators boast, just like all full-course.

The Alberta-based *B.C. Report* magazine, gleefully proclaiming that the world-class resort has produced "a champagne epidemic." Most of its million-or-so visitors are under 30, less than five per cent of its 4,500 people. Most residents are over 45. Dr. Ernie Ledgerwood, who treats about eight cases each month, is quoted: "There's nothing to do here that doesn't cost money. Sex is the cheapest recreation."

Blackcomb's move to the best resort was financed by the Federal Business Development Bank and 50th Anniversary, meaning Marvin Davis, the Hollywood billionaire. Now, it's controlled by Vancouver-based Intra-West, based in the Toronto and Montreal offices.

Now the best in the best, it's not the world, Blackcomb has a national reach that is considerable. A package tour for Quebec skiers had to be

refused down because they were short ones were taking advantage of it. The most profitable and busiest week of the year, made from the Christmas holiday, turns out to be spring break in Ontario universities. In the United States, everybody on spring break goes to Hilton Marklet Lodge at Daybreak Beach, in Ontario. They slip to Whistler. The white company of the Tokyo Halfway runs down the slopes, dodging the homeless squads of Vancouver snow boards who are the newest menace of the mountains. Intra West is now in partnership with Kaituma/Panama in the Keystone resort outside Denver.

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